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Ukraine Nuclear Missile Silos' Readiness 'Low'

OW1702122993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1144 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The level of readiness of Ukraine's 16 SS-24 nuclear missile silos is low, Chief of the Control Center for Ukraine's strategic nuclear forces, Konstantin Kryzhko, confirmed on Tuesday [16 February].

He believes that this is due to Russia's refusal to do silo maintenance. The first thing Russia intends to do is to determine to whom these missiles belong, he added.

He also announced that at the end of 1991, following the Soviet Union's break-up, the regime of maintenance operations changed on the Ukrainian strategic facilities. The conclusion of agreements on technical maintenance is delayed, he said.

Speaking about the three launchers which, to quote the Russian press, are simply out of order, Kryzhko noted that the Kharkov plant has produced instruments for them. However, in the absence of other parts, these instruments have not been installed yet.

Ukraine Environment Minister on Nuclear Disarmament

LD1402211893 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Studio phone-in interview with Yuriy Kostenko, minister of environmental protection and head of the Commission of Deputies for Issues of Nuclear Disarmament, by correspondents Viktoriya Popovych and Vadym Zadorozhnyy and producer Iryna Kovalenko in Kiev; from "At the Crossroads of Opinions" program;—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Zadorozhnyy] Mr. Kostenko is 42 and was born in Vinnitsa Oblast. He has been rapidly promoted from research associate at the Institute of Electric Welding in Kiev to minister in less than three years. [passage omitted]

[Popovych] We reckon that you, esteemed listeners, have at least some idea about who our guest is and we directly proceed to the topic of today's program, which is: Does Ukraine need nuclear weapons? [passage omitted]

[Kostenko] This is an extremely important and complex issue because these nuclear weapons are permanent and the strategic missiles are deployed in launching silos, which are, as a rule, high-capacity engineering installations. For example, to only remove this carrier rocket, a whole series of operations need to be performed. To begin with, the warhead itself needs to be removed, then the fuel needs to be pumped out, then the oxidant needs to be pumped out, and some operations are needed in connection with the necessity to comply with the norms of ecological safety, because this material is extremely toxic. Then all of this and eventually the carrier rocket itself need to be removed and transported to the site of deactivation of the missile itself. Then the material or, to be more precise, the components need either to be stored somewhere or utilized or reprocessed. And these issues are complex too.

And it is here, when dealing with this part of the issue relating to nuclear warheads, that a whole number of other issues arise, without whose settlement the nuclear disarmament that is being talked about so much by everybody simply cannot be carried out.

So, speaking about what has remained, which is in fact 176 strategic missiles equipped with varying numbers of warheads, once again, this potential at present essentially makes Ukraine the third largest nuclear state in the world. So, unfortunately we still have quite a lot remaining. [passage omitted]

[Popovych] We continue our program. Mr. Kostenko, please, the Supreme Council at this (?current) session is going to examine and ratify, or not ratify, the START Treaty, whereas the United States and Russia have concluded the START II Treaty not so long ago, which has to be acceded by us. What is required from Ukraine by these treaties?

[Kostenko] Well, I shall start from the end, as tradition has it. Regarding START II, whether to accede or not to accede to it will be known after the Ukrainian Supreme Council has ratified or, as you said, not ratified the START I Treaty.

[Popovych, interrupting] This is how the parliament will resolve it?

[Kostenko] Indeed. As for START I, I would like to point out the following: First, the numbers. As I have already told you, there are 176 strategic missiles deployed on our territory. At the same time, the START I Treaty does not make provisions for the number that has to be eliminated just by Ukraine, because START I was concluded between the United States and the former Soviet Union, and the overall number of carrier rockets to be eliminated by the entire Soviet Union was stipulated there, without determining that this or that be done on the territory of Belarus, Kazakhstan, or Ukraine. Upon the disintegration of the Soviet Union, as (?there appeared) only four nuclear states, the so-called Lisbon protocol was concluded. [passage omitted]

Naturally, (?all of these documents) and Russia insist that those 176 missiles be eliminated within the framework of the START Treaty. But this is what they wish, whereas I cannot even tell you so far how the Supreme Council will ratify the treaty, because, once again, back to the issue of the elimination of exactly the fixed strategic nuclear weapons, I want to note that this issue is extremely complex. And a lot depends here not even on the willingness of parliament itself, but on the technological and economic conditions that Ukraine is actually experiencing today. That is to say, to eliminate nuclear weapons, it is necessary to put together

extremely large funds, and as you understand, under our current economic conditions, it is extremely difficult to find these funds in our budget. There also are other problems, I mean scientific and technological ones. [passage omitted]

So, we have to examine this issue comprehensively prior to giving recommendations to the Supreme Council as to how many missiles we have to eliminate and within what timeframe.

[Zadorozhnyy] And as for the costs, I would like to add here that Ukrainian scientists and experts made some calculations according to which around $2 billion is needed for Ukraine to get rid of nuclear weapons. This means that the sum of $175 million allocated by the United States is obviously not enough. As for this liquid fuel you talked about, there are almost 13,000 tonnes of it in the 130 SS-19 missiles.

[Kostenko] All of this needs to be (?eliminated).

[Popovych] And once we have already started to talk about parliament and whether it will or will not ratify the treaty, you said that you would have to examine this comprehensively. You know that now, Western [word indistinct], and in particular, Western officials now accuse Ukraine and its parliament of delaying the ratification of START I. Is this the case? Is this the delay or [word indistinct]?

[Kostenko] No, it is not. I would like to say that this issue concerning Ukraine delaying and postponing the process of ratification is absolutely far-fetched. [passage omitted]

[Hamburh] Sorry to disturb you. I am Leonid Oleksandrovych Hamburh, director general of the Association of Ukrainian-British Cooperation, from Kiev. Good evening! [passage omitted] I would very much like you to tell us and my British friends what decision on the ratification of the START I Treaty, with the decision to be submitted to the Supreme Council, has been adopted by your committee?

[Kostenko] [passage omitted] As for your question on what decisions have been prepared, the commission is now working hard on six aspects and preparing relevant expert assessment and conclusions and plans to submit the actual economic, technological, and ecological calculations necessary for this treaty to be ratified to the Supreme Council together with the START Treaty.

[Question indistinct]

[Kostenko] Of course for ratification. It is proposals alone that the commission is preparing. It is preparing proposals on ratification and if necessary, making certain cautionary stipulations. It is preparing all of the main parts of the necessary information that the Supreme Council needs to be provided with, in order to enable it to evaluate and make calculations prior to voting either for or against ratification, so that every deputy can vote in good conscience. And for this purpose, all the necessary information needs to be collected.

[Unidentified correspondent] I would like to add the words of Margaret Thatcher: Countries avoid countries with a strong defense. This was the policy of her government and her contribution is that this policy remains in Great Britain today.

[Kostenko] I also support this view, specifically in those ways that I proposed in Ukraine's nuclear disarmament. There should be a gradual replacement of the factor of halting aggression, which today consists of nuclear weapons, and this is an extraordinary effective factor of halting aggression, and here Margaret Thatcher, the famous political activist, was absolutely right. With regard to Ukraine's nuclear disarmament, this factor, nuclear weapons, should have been gradually substituted by other factors in the system of national security, that is, not by military ones.

National security could be guaranteed, as they say, by complex factors: military potential or economic potential, as for example in Japan. Japan does not have nuclear weapons, but today, nobody dares to fight against Japan because economically, it will crush any country. There is also an extraordinarily high degree of integration among some countries, for example Sweden, Switzerland, Finland, and small states, but Switzerland practically has half of the whole world's capital and not a single country, even Hitler at the time, would not dare to fight against Switzerland. Therefore, Ukraine at this point, has a powerful defense system, that is nuclear weapons, but economically, it is weak and is not integrated with those countries that could guarantee its stability. It is integrated more with Russia, which is far from being stable itself. The simple destruction of nuclear weapons, as they say, the swift dumping of this factor in the system of national security and the inadequate substitution of this factor with other factors could lead to the fact that a large hole, so to speak, could really appear in the system of our national security, which at the present time cannot be practically closed.

Therefore, in approaching this problem of nuclear disarmament in the Supreme Council, they should be very clearly aware of all these aspects connected with nuclear weapons. It would be very good to imagine what all this could lead to. But on the other hand, I would also like to say that in Ukraine there is no technical potential to support the components of the nuclear weapons at the required level. Technically, as we say [words indistinct] equal. We should also consider this factor because as we stated at the beginning of the broadcast, all enterprises that used to develop and produce nuclear warheads are located in Russia. There is only one enterprise on the territory of Ukraine, this is the Pivdenne Mashynobudivnyy Zavod [Southern Machine-Building Plant] where strategic missile launchers are developed and produced, but as for the actual warheads, the enterprises that develop those are concentrated in Russia.

[Unidentified correspondent interrupts with mostly indistinct question concerning safeguarding storage of nuclear weapons]

[Kostenko] Yes this is taking place. Relevant negotiations have now begun with the Russian Federation. The aim of these negotiations, apart from other problems, is also to regulate the problem of the safe storage of strategic nuclear weapons located in Ukraine and in Russia. The point is that we really do not have, for example, enterprises that can guarantee the safety of the nuclear warhead itself on the territory of Ukraine, but our PivdenMash, which makes launchers, as we have already stated, also services these missiles based on Russian territory. Without their service, these missiles also become themselves dangerous. This could also mean an unsanctioned launch. What is the difference, say if such a launch leads to a nuclear accident or if the warhead itself, if it has some defects, not defects, but some faults, leads to some nuclear accident. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified caller] [Question indistinct]

[Kostenko] We understand your question. Your main point is to preserve nuclear weapons in Ukraine. We understood that. But for our audience we will explain, because there were interruptions on the line, that this was a call from a representative from the Union of Officers from Ovruch as far as I could understand. Is that correct? He said that they, he used many arguments...

[Unidentified correspondent interrupting] Ovruch is in Kiev Oblast.

[Kostenko] He used many arguments, but they support retaining nuclear weapons. [Words indistinct] I would like to stress once again [word indistinct] in Independence Square that the thoughts on this, from the unreserved [word indistinct] of all this potential to full liquidation are absolutely to the contrary. Taking into account this range of ideas I think that we, deputies who represent the people, should adopt a very very balanced decision which would take into account the range of ideas to the maximum, and what is most important, which would take into account the national interests of our state to the maximum. This is the main thing that I want to say with regard to the statement by the serviceman from Ovruch. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified voice] I think that from the position of [words indistinct] our audience, that from today's questions people are concerned with the fact that if we were to disarm and destroy nuclear weapons, would our Ukraine not be become a second- or third-rate country which would not be taken seriously [words indistinct]. What is your opinion?

[Kostenko] Without any doubt countries that have a considerable military potential today have, to a certain extent, a dominant position in the world. But once again I would like to stress the concept which I have already expressed. [passage omitted]

[Zadorozhnyy] All the same, as far as second-rate states are concerned, which Ukraine could become or find itself becoming, I would like to give one more quotation: Dan Miller, adviser to former U.S. Senator Henry Jackson, said that should Ukraine renounce its nuclear weapons then it would cease to exist in the eyes of the United States. Again, this is without comment.

[Kostenko] To an extent I could support this view, because when I was in the United States in September last year I paid attention to the fact that as of today, on the part of this country, there was only one interest, which is connected with the destruction and liquidation of nuclear weapons. With regard to other problems and the process of democracy in Ukraine and other political and economic reforms which have already been initiated, then very little attention and interest were paid to them at any level where I had meetings, and I had meetings both at the level of state secretaries, then the State Department, the National Security Council, and the Pentagon. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Supporters of a nuclear-free Ukraine say that the great nuclear states should give security guarantees to Ukraine. Some countries have already given it to Ukraine. We know that yesterday President Kravchuk returned from Great Britain and that [word indistinct] which envisages security guarantees for Ukraine on the part of Great Britain. What is your opinion on the fact that Russia is also providing such guarantees? Here I would like to quote Danny Miller again. In particular, he said that to include Russia as guarantor of Ukraine's security is almost like asking the fox to guarantee the safety of chickens.

[Unidentified correspondent] To add to our president's words: To be next to Russia is like lying in bed with an elephant.

[Kostenko] I would like to say that obviously we have our problems with regard to guaranteeing national security in general, and in particular with regard to Russia. Without doubt, what is it to guarantee national security? [passage omitted] This also applies to the guarantees which have been proposed to us. Without doubt international guarantees should be provided during the period of Ukraine's nuclear disarmament. This is the political factor which will later influence Ukraine's national security. But in the end, if—excuse me—as they say, something happens, then these guarantees will not be able to influence the situation. In the first instance this concerns those guarantees which Russia could provide. How can Russia today provide guarantees if it is putting forward territorial claims against Ukraine? [passage omitted]

[Kostenko] Thank you for your question, it again demonstrates that the Supreme Council should adopt a very balanced decision. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] Thank you, Mr. Minister.

Russian General Criticizes START II's Provisions

PM1202151993 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Feb 93 p 5

[V. Nikolayev report on interview with Colonel General V. Achalov, leader of the Supreme Soviet Information Analysis Group; place and date not given: "General V. Achalov: 'I Put Trust in Facts'"]

[Text] It would seem to be of some interest to know the opinion of Colonel General V. Achalov, leader of the Supreme Soviet Information Analysis Group, on the Russian-U.S. START II Treaty, especially as in the past he held the post of USSR deputy defense minister, which enables him to judge the document completely professionally.

"I have a considerable number of questions on the treaty. But the more I ponder them the fewer convincing answers I find. Under the treaty, Russia practically eliminates its most effective and comparatively cheap strategic weapon—land-based MIRV'ed ballistic missiles. At the same time the United States retains, albeit in a reduced form, the basis of its strategic triad—nuclear submarines and strategic aviation. Furthermore, the Americans retain an overwhelming advantage in high-accuracy weapons—sea-launched cruise missiles, which are not covered by the agreements that have been reached. Parity between strategic weapons ensured peace on the planet for almost half a century, but will one superpower's monopoly ensure it?

"It is well known that the Americans were ahead in the field of creating the SDI system and a ground-based air defense system, which the treaty does not affect either. Will the United States not become invulnerable to us 10 years after our missiles capable of penetrating this defense system have been eliminated, while simultaneously keeping itself completely impervious? Is it right that Russia is artificially tailoring the structure of its defense potential to U.S. standards—specifically aviation and submarines—starting an arms race in the same areas where the United States is known to be stronger, while we have lagged behind almost hopelessly? And can we catch up with them at all given the collapse of the economy and defense sectors? Will Russia be able to bear the expenditure on creating new types of weapons? And what, finally, will the treaty's social and ecological costs be?

"The first hearings that have taken place in the Supreme Soviet have shown that government experts do not have any serious answers to these and a lot of other and equally acute questions. One gets the impression that we are again being drawn terribly hastily into an adventure which could lead to consequences which would be even more ruinous for the country's security than the consequences of the same hasty and ill-considered Gaydarist experiments for the economy.

"Of course, if U.S. politicians' peace-loving words and assurances are to be believed, armed forces can be eliminated altogether. But I prefer to put more trust in facts and I cannot turn a blind eye to the way in which the United States is behaving peremptorily in relation to Iraq and Yugoslavia, with the provocative effrontery of a world policeman. Over 100,000 people, mainly civilians, were annihilated in Iraq. In Yugoslavia—the Americans are only just starting an armed intervention against it—the tally could also reach tens of thousands. And how many of us could die if Washington also starts dictating its will to us, while we are not in a position to defend our own interests?

"I might be accused of inflaming passions. But, as far as I know, nobody has denied the reports about NATO strategists' elaboration of operations plans for its peacekeeping forces on the former Union's territory."

Russian, Ukrainian Groups Discuss START I Implementation

LD1602163993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1529 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] Moscow February 16 ITAR-TASS—According to the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Russian and Ukrainian working groups met today to regulate questions relating to the implementation of the START-1 Treaty. The working groups were set up to utilize nuclear charges within the framework of Russo-Ukrainian negotiations connected with the issue.

During today's meeting, the Russian representatives handed over to the Ukrainian side materials relating to the dismantling, transportation and elimination of nuclear charges and strategic missile complex components of the strategic nuclear forces deployed in Ukraine, including reprocessing of nuclear components.

Russian Scientist on 'Premature' Arms Initiative

LD1602140193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1342 GMT 16 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow February 16 TASS—In an ITAR-TASS interview on Tuesday [16 February], Colonel Vladimir Dvorkin, acting chief of the Russian Defence Ministry's Central Research Institute, described as utterly premature Russian parliamentarians' initiative concerning additional obligations by the parties to the START-2 treaty.

The Russian parliamentary committees on international affairs and foreign economic relations and on defence and security are known to have suggested that possibilities be considered within the framework of the START-2 Treaty for a reduction in nuclear weapons by Russia and the United States by the years 2005-2010 down to a level commensurate with the arsenals of the other nuclear powers.

"This is, in point of fact, an utterly new agreement and, in the opinion of Russian military experts, it is inadvisable to propose such initiatives before the START-1 and START-2 treaties enter into force and before experience, including that in the ecologically safe salvaging of nuclear weapons, is gained," Dvorkin said.

Commenting on the contents of the START-2 treaty, he pointed out that the lowering of the level of the sides' strategic offensive arms leads to the levelling out of the deterrent potentials of the nuclear forces of Russia and the United States and, consequently, to the strengthening of the military-strategic stability.

However, the scientist believes, deeps cuts in strategic offensive arms should be dovetailed with limiting the influence of such destabilising factors as the deployment of anti-ballistic missile defence systems, the creation of nuclear states' coalitions opposing Russia, and a possible impact of high-precision weapons on strategic facilities during a non-nuclear period of military operations, and the development of space reconnaissance. Confidence has now arisen that the negative effect of such factors may be limited, through negotiations as well.

As far as the economic aspects of the START-2 treaty are concerned, the possibility of retooling 90 heavy missile silo launchers and converting 105 MIRVs into single-warhead missiles will make it possible to ensure for Russia a less strenuous pace of arms reduction and the phasing in of fixed-based missiles such as SS-25 and thereby reduce expenses.

In addition, the need to create new production facilities and modernise MIRVed intercontinental ballistic missiles is obviated.

A preliminary analysis shows that the aggregate saving of funds in the development of strategic nuclear forces of Russia under the START-2 treaty, compared to that under the START-1 treaty, may amount to 80,000-90,000 million roubles within a decade.

An estimate of the military-strategic balance is based on the comparison of the countervailing and deterrent potentials of the ICBMs and the SLBMs of the sides.

Under the START-2 Treaty, Russia's countervailing potential is reduced by half due to the elimination the MIRVed ICBMs, whereas the analogous potential of the U.S. offensive forces is reduced by a factor of 4-5. As a result, the ratio of the sides' countervailing potentials changes from 3.5-1 under the START-1 Treaty (in favour of the U.S.) to 1.4-1 under the START-2 Treaty.

The ratio of deterrent potentials is the most important for strategic stability. Despite the deep cuts under the START-2 Treaty, the deterrent potential of Russia's strategic nuclear forces even increases as compared with the provisions of the START-1 Treaty, primarily resultant of strategic missile forces.

Russia To Completely Destroy Chemical Weapons by 2005

LD1502201593 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1700 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Text] In the near future three facilities for destroying chemical weapons will be set up in Russia. This was stated by Igor Vlasov, head of a department of the Committee on Conventional Problems of Chemical and Biological Weapons. According to him the Khimprom association in Novocheboksarsk will be reconfigured and used for these purposes, and two facilities will also be built in the Saratov oblast and Udmurtia for the destruction and utilization of the mustard gas-lewisite mixtures.

Igor Vlasov noted that the complete destruction of chemical weapons will be finished by the year 2005. Over 3 billion rubles and $543 million have been alloted for this purpose.

Commonwealth Chiefs of Staff Meet in Moscow

LD1702104693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1015 GMT 17 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunaiskiy]

[Text] Moscow February 17 TASS—Chiefs of staff of eight CIS countries and observers from Georgia, Moldova and Azerbaijan joined in Moscow on Wednesday to discuss organisation of command and communication in the Unified Armed Forces of the Commonwealth, as well as operative planning and the engagement of the CIS Armed Forces.

The meeting of the Chiefs of Staff Committee is chaired by Chief of Staff of the Unified Armed Forces Viktor Samsonov. Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Ukraine sent their chiefs of staff or their deputies.

The CIS Committee on Military Organisation and Training is also holding a meeting to discuss the structure and the composition of the Unified Armed Forces, their arming and manning, as well as the use in peacekeeping missions on CIS borders. The meeting is chaired by Deputy Chief of Staff of the Unified Armed Forces Vladimir Krivonogikh.

The Personnel Committee of the Unified Armed Forces discusses the rules for the transfer of servicemen in between national armies of the Commonwealth states, the manning of strategic forces deployed in Belarus and Kazakhstan. The committee unites representatives of mobilisation departments of the general headquarters of CIS countries and personnel departments of their national armies.

Recommendations worked out by the three committees will be submitted to defence ministers of the Commonwealth.

Representatives Fail To Agree on Coordination Committee

LD1202173493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1510 GMT 12 Feb 93

[By BELINFORM correspondent Valentina Menshikova]

[Text] Minsk February 12 TASS—A meeting of CIS experts and representatives ended here today after discussing in the first reading draft provisions on the Commonwealth Coordination-Consultative Committee and failing to come to a common opinion on the draft provisions.

The body is meant as a structure to help the former Soviet Republics restore broken economic relations, reach mutual understanding and reanimate previously adopted economic agreements. The committee is expected to coordinate actions of the Commonwealth member-states in fulfillment of political, humanitarian, cultural and other programs of mutual interest.

It is also expected to contribute to the creation of a stable system of interstate economic relations in the sphere of science, production, trade, services, financial and economic activities on the basis of free motion of capital, goods and labor force in accordance with the principles and norms of the CIS Charter.

Consultations on the issue will be continued.

Preparations for March CIS Minsk Summit Under Way

WS1702105693 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0800 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] Less than a month is left before the beginning of the conference of the Commonwealth government leaders scheduled for [words indistinct]. At the Minsk CIS Headquarters, preparations of draft documents for this event are in full swing. One of them deals with the elaboration of measures dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War. Plenipotentiary representatives of the CIS Joint Armed Forces and the Committee for the Affairs of Soldiers-Internationalists of the Border Troops discussed the possibility of the establishment of a commemorative medal for the 50 Years of Victory in the Great Patriotic War 1941-1945. At the Minsk CIS Headquarters, another group of experts held its session. It dealt with the establishment of the common system of privileges for all the participants of the Great Patriotic War and citizens with the same status, irrespective of their place of residence.

Armenia Prepares To Host 30 Apr CIS Summit

LD1602202293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1712 GMT 16 Feb 93

[By BELINFORM correspondent Larisa Lazar]

[Text] Minsk February 16 TASS—Despite the dire economic situation, Armenia is doing everything possible in order that the next CIS summit meeting will be held on a proper level, Ivan Korotchenya, coordinator of the CIS working group, said on Tuesday [16 February].

He said he had not made any statements about a possible transfer of the CIS summit scheduled for April 30 from Yerevan to any other place.

The press centre of the working groups said the coordinating bodies of the CIS states and heads of government are working in close contact with the organising committee set up in Armenia to prepare the summit meeting.

Some problems, including the lack of cars, will be solved with the help of the Russian prime minister, the press service said.

Venue May Change to Ashgabat

MK1602112593 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Feb 93 p 3

[Igor Zhukov report: "Venue Must be Changed. Next Summit of CIS Heads of State, Scheduled for 30 April, Will Most Likely Be Held in Ashgabat, Not Yerevan"]

[Text] The question of relocating the summit was discussed on 13 February by President Sapamurad Niyazov and Ivan Korotchenya, coordinator of the working group for the holding of sessions of the Council of Heads of State and Government, who arrived in the capital of Turkmenistan from Yerevan.

In a conversation with Niyazov, Korotechnya described the disastrous situation which has developed in the Armenian capital because of the lack of electricity, gas, and food, describing it as "much worse than during the years after the war." In his words, the government's president and government are doing everything incumbent on them to hold the proposed meeting. But it is quite probable that it will have to be relocated—to the more favorable Ashgabat, for example.

As NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's correspondent has learned, Niyazov agreed to examine the possibility of holding the meeting of CIS leaders in Ashgabat if the heads of state put such a proposal to him. In fact he was already asked to do this by Russian President Boris Yeltsin in a 12 February telephone conversation. The new venue for the head of states' meeting is scheduled to be announced after the Armenian leadership has made an official statement that its efforts to prepare for the meeting have been in vain. Immediately after his meeting with Niyazov, Korotechnya set off on a tour of Ashgabat to inspect buildings where is might be possible to house the visitors and hold the meeting.

Interstate Radio-TV Company Head on Participation

LD1302120993 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1310 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] [Announcer] We begin our "Panorama" section of interviews, reports, and dispatches with an item about the new interstate radio and television company. Not because the agreement on its creation, signed today, affects journalists first and foremost—as the saying goes, one's own shirt is closer to the body—but because of the belated realization that without a common information space it is impossible to have effective contacts between the Commonwealth countries in the spheres of political, economic and defence cooperation—in general, a normal civilized life is impossible—this realization was today backed up by a document. Gadilbek Shalakhmetov, the chairman of the new company and a journalist from Kazakhstan, gave us the following information:

[Begin Shalakhmetov recording] I remind you that it is organized as a private joint-stock company. There are eight states, to begin with. It was necessary to determine the authorized capital. It has been determined. It amounts to some 1.6 billion rubles [R], made up of R200 million from each founder state. The possible costs of the production of the joint programs that will be made by all the founder countries have been determined, and these programs will be offered for relay on the most popular channel, Ostankino.

The approximate scale is modest at the moment. It amounts to three hours on the first channel and three hours on All-Union Radio. But, as they say, to start with, the funds for that have to be collected. That will also be settled as we go along. This helps us to prepare broadcasts ourselves, to count on our own broadcasting channels in the future, and to sign up the eight founder states.

But we think that if a common information space is to be organized, comprising at least those Commonwealth states—naturally they are CIS members—where people watch and listen to the Ostankino channels, Ostankino television and radio, we would like those states too to join our organization and take part in this new venture.

But at first, to start with, we will rely on Ostankino's existing broadcast editorial offices, which make broadcasts of an interstate nature. Ideally, of course, Ostankino would be converted into this interstate channel, as was originally contemplated. But as Ostankino is Russian property and sees things from the standpoint of the Russian side, I think that the creation of a new interstate radio and television company will instill the correct emphasis into the balance of forces.

Possibly these transmissions of an interstate character will gradually find a place either on the channels of Ostankino or—who knows? The technicians have been telling us for some time that it is possible to have an independent channel. Why do we rely all the time on two or three channels in our states? There could be considerably more, and one of them could be an objective information channel, as we say. [end recording]

[Announcer] So far the representatives of two of the eight founder republics have not appended their signatures—Belarus and Moldova. After all, as Aleksandr Stolyarovskiy of Belarus explained:

[Begin Stolyarovskiy recording] I abstained today in order to consult the leadership of our republic. But, because the very principle of the organization and, in general, the details of the organization, of the new company, are unknown, it will be necessary later to reach a clear-cut decision with our financial bodies. I think that it will take several days to acquaint them with the situation and the issues, and that is all. [end recording]

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 17 Feb

LD1702070393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0558 GMT 17 Feb 93

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow February 17 ITAR-TASS—Most of the Moscow morning newspapers highlight today the Tuesday [16 February] meeting of President Yeltsin and Chairman of the Russian Parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov.

The TRUD report on this subject calls attention to the understanding, reached at the meeting, on the creation of a working group which will work out an agreement for coordinating the activities of the executive and legislative branches of authority for the purpose of stabilising the constitutional system and getting the country out of the economic crisis.

An hour and a half before the beginning of the meeting with the president, the chairman of parliament gave an interview to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, in which he said he intended to suggest to President Yeltsin that two ballot-papers should be submitted to the April referendum on the basic provisions of the new constitution. In his opinion, the second one should attract special attention of Russian citizens. It deals with confidence in the president, the Congress of People's Deputies, the parliament, the government and the holding of presidential and parliamentary elections simultaneously no later than the spring of 1994. "I think the Russian president should not be afraid of the general elections. In my opinion, he has a chance to win them," he said. PRAVDA criticises the referendum and writes that "this is nothing but a semblance of overcoming the crisis."

Newspapers call attention to the statement made by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin after he arrived in Tomsk and especially to his opposition to the idea that "strong regions will make strong Russia." He said that a country like Russia should not be turned into just a number of regions grouped together. According to TRUD, the prime minister showed again that he had his own idea of the history and prospects of the economic reform in Russia.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA reports a two-day exercise, held within the framework of the all-Russian conference on combatting organised crime. Specialised units showed in the course of the exercise the methods of dealing with crime groups and behaving in the situation of massive unrest. According to militia Major General Mikhail Yegorov, first deputy interior minister of the Russian Federation, there are 4,352 such groups in Russia with a total membership of 100,000.

The newspaper carries an interview with Colonel General V. Samsonov, head of the general staff of the CIS Allied Armed Forces. He said that the Allied Armed Forces, when they are created, would be able to be used for settling conflicts in the CIS member states with the help of peacekeeping operations.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA reports the world fair of weapons held in Abu Dhabi. The Russian section was presented by Russian Defence Minister General Pavel Grachev. "Russia put on display the samples of weapons and military hardware, many of which have been offered for export for the first time," the newspaper writes. Specialists believe that deals worth billions of dollars may be closed at the fair.

PRAVDA carries an interview with chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party of Russia Gennadiy Zyuganov. He said that the congress of the party, held several days before, "constitutionalized the party," adopted a programme statement, the rules and the resolutions, which express the attitude of communists to the basic problems of current life. According to Zyuganov, "now communists have their own organization with a strength of half a million, with its own strategy and tactics."

Talks With Nixon Focus on Russian-U.S. Relations

PM1602142393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Feb 93 p 4

[Konstantin Eggert report: "White House Has Not Yet Formulated Concept for Relations With Kremlin"]

[Text] "What will the Clinton administration's policy toward Russia be like? Will the White House promote an influx of private investment from the United States? Is Washington ready to help Moscow consolidate its position on the international arms markets in order to rid our military-industrial complex of the need to trade with Libya, Syria, Iraq, and the DPRK?" Those are the main questions in Russian-U.S. relations today.

It was these questions that were at the center of Boris Yeltsin's and Andrey Kozyrev's conversations with former President Richard Nixon, visiting our country for the third time in the last three years with a view to "finding out the facts." He usually presents his conclusions to influential members of the U.S. political elite, among whom he enjoys considerable respect. The Russian president and foreign minister used the confidential meetings in the Kremlin and the Foreign Ministry's guest house on Aleksey Tolstoy Street to try to remind Washington once again of Moscow's most important interests. Although the opinions voiced by Richard Nixon represent the viewpoint of an albeit influential, but nonetheless private individual, they do nevertheless give an idea of what can be expected of Clinton's Russian policy at least in the near future.

No dramatic changes are forecast at the moment. There is every indication that the new White House incumbent intends to hand a large proportion of foreign policy activity over to the control of specialists—career diplomats and experts. That does not only apply to Russia and the CIS countries, but even to such "burning" problems as the crisis in the former Yugoslavia. This behavior is no accident: The U.S. election campaign focused almost exclusively on socioeconomic problems and it would be suicide for Clinton to forget it.

However, in Nixon's opinion, the former Arkansas governor is a sensible, dynamic man and he must simply be given time to really realize that if reforms in Russia break down, the United States is doomed to once again be embroiled in an arms race that would in turn bury all the new administration's plans to reform the health and education systems, curb the budget deficit, and promote the growth of a middle class. Speculatively speaking, the new president probably realizes this, but he has not yet had time to seriously grasp the idea, much less make it one of the main "themes" of his presidency.

However, Clinton is young and most likely expects to be in the political fore in the 21st century too, and consequently he cannot avoid formulating an in-depth foreign policy strategy. Russia's role in that strategy is a key one, and the period of the "change of guard" in Washington seems most appropriate to remember that Moscow has had and will continue to have its own view of certain problems, a view that differs from the U.S. view, and this must be taken into consideration.

To use Nixon's figurative expression, it was not Russia, but communism that suffered defeat during the "cold war." U.S. public opinion is often inclined not to notice this significant difference. There is a very great temptation to treat the former adversary condescendingly and try to force it to follow the lead taken by U.S. policy in everything. But that temptation must be combated. If the United States is interested in the stability of the democratic government in Russia, it must realize that that government can only be strong and independent. Incidentally, the differences in our positions on some matters are often mutually complementary. A graphic example of that is the evolution of the Clinton administration's views on the plan for a peace settlement in Bosnia.

The new phase in relations with the United States will also require different approaches from our diplomatic service. Regrettably, the Russian Embassy in Washington is still not entirely capable of solving serious problems autonomously and bombards Smolenskaya-Sennaya [the Russian Foreign Ministry] with cipher communications asking for top-level aid in areas where it could get by on its own. U.S. foreign policy is made not only in the Department of State, but also and to a considerable extent in Congress and the National Security Council. An influential senator's support can often mean far more than a direct-line conversation with the secretary of state. Now that we have ceased to be enemies, we should learn to understand how the U.S. political system works and where the nerve centers that can influence relations with Russia are.

The development of partnership relations between the two countries will be almost more difficult than overcoming our former confrontation. In this Moscow and Washington will need pragmatism, sober self-assessment, and a desire to compromise. The time for dramatic shifts is past. And that is probably for the best.

Article Examines State Department's Reorganization Plans

PM1602131993 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Feb 93 p 3

[Mikhail Pogorelyy report: "What Lies Behind Plans to Reorganize Department of State"]

[Excerpts] Representatives of the Clinton administration have disclosed plans to reorganize the U.S. Department of State—the establishment which performs the functions of a foreign ministry in the United States. Throughout the world, the diplomatic service is considered quite conservative in the sense that it adheres to traditions and to tried and tested work methods. Why, then, have the U.S. leaders decided to effect a "mini-revolution" in this sphere?

As First Deputy Secretary of State Clifton Wharton declared at the last official meeting in the Department of State, it is primarily in order to stress the importance of the new priorities in the foreign policy of a United States led by Clinton: The emphasis is on a reinforcement of the principles of democracy throughout the world, a "more aggressive" defense of U.S. economic interests abroad, and active participation in resolving global, world problems. Furthermore, action with regard to the Department of State is entirely in line with the overall campaign to raise efficiency in the work of Washington's bureaucratic apparatus, and reduce its numbers. [passage omitted]

By directive of the Department of State, it is planned to cut a significant number of leadership apparatus staffers, starting from the level of assistant deputies, advisers' deputy assistants, and so on.

One of the few remaining special advisers to the secretary of state will be Strobe Talbott, in the rank of ambassador on special assignment responsible for U.S. policy in respect of the "new independent states"—the term used to mean the former USSR republics. In connection with rumors circulating both in Washington and Moscow about Talbott's role—it is alleged that he is expected to all but replace the U.S. ambassadors in these republics—an official Department of State representative explained that Talbott's functions will be to coordinate all U.S. diplomatic, military-political, and economic relations with former Soviet republics. It is in precisely this capacity that he will be given operational jurisdiction over the "new independent states" section, which will remain part of the Europe and Canada Administration as before.

'Nuclear Danger' Center Exchanges Military Secrets With U.S.

LD1602223493 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 16 Feb 93

[By correspondent Konstantin Tochilin, including recorded segments of remarks by Lieutenant General V. Medvedev, director of National Center for Reduction of Nuclear Danger; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Tochilin] On the telephones there are stickers saying "Secret conversations are forbidden," although the task of this organization is in fact to disclose our military secrets. Not to just anyone of course. To the Americans. The clocks here are on Washington time. Washington regularly receives information on the launches of our strategic missiles, on major exercises, and on liquidation of our medium- and short-range missiles. But we are not in a den of foreign spies. It is just that today the Press Center of the Defense Ministry has invited journalists to the National Center for Reduction of Nuclear Danger.

[Medvedev, in progress] ... the organization which was set up under the Soviet-U.S. agreement. There are two such centers, one here in Moscow and the other in Washington.

[Tochilin] There they receive our information and in exchange they share their own secrets. In a year there are about 2,000 such exchanges, i.e. five or six times a day. Secrets are exchanged here, at the communications point. In contrast to the American center, our center also monitors implementation of treaties on reduction of armaments, receives foreign inspectors at our facilities, and sends our inspectors abroad. But it is one thing to sign a treaty and another to ensure its implementation, observing all norms of security. Nuclear weapons are no joke.

[Medvedev] You and I are lucky that the organization which ensures security of nuclear weapons in our country both in the former USSR and now in R[illegible]a is no small [sentence incomplete].

'Substantial Differences' Noted With U.S. on Bosnia

PM1602161593 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Feb 93 p 3

[Sergey Sidorov report: "There Are Differences in the Approaches of Russia and the United States"]

[Text] Talks with Russian colleagues create a basis for common views on settling the Yugoslav crisis and eliminating its consequences for the situation in southern Europe, Reginald Bartholomew, U.S. representative in the talks on Bosnia, stated after a meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

Bartholomew was in Russia with the aim of coordinating cooperation between Russian and the United States on the Yugoslav question and, in his words, will come again frequently to Moscow. On the Russian side the two state's efforts will be coordinated by Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin, who has been overseeing Balkans policy since last August.

The first meeting between U.S. and Russian diplomats took place Saturday. Bartholomew did not manage to get the meeting he wanted with President Yeltsin owing to the latter's intense preoccupation with domestic affairs. But A. Kozyrev said that the president is following the progress of talks on Yugoslavia and was giving the Ministry of Foreign Affairs clear directions on how to conduct affairs.

Churkin and Bartholomew have their work cut out—substantial differences were delineated in the approaches of Russia and the United States. For example, the United States believes that tougher sanctions against the SRY (Serbia and Montenegro) should be a condition of further settlement in Bosnia-Hercegovina. Russia, on the other hand, suggests that, in compelling the Bosnian Serbs to accept the Vance-Owen plan, which both Russia

and the United States support, Belgrade has demonstrated changes in policy. Its role has become one of the most constructive factors in the settlement process. The Russian parliament will not agree with the U.S. demand for tougher sanctions. This was intimated to Bartholomew by the chairmen of two key parliamentary committees, Yevgeniy Ambartsumov and Sergey Stepanov, who also met with the U.S. envoy. There are also other differences, above all concernng the procedure for enforcing the no-fly zone over Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Representatives of Bosnia-Hercegovina's rump presidency and parliament arrived in Moscow almost simultaneously with Bartholomew. Judging by the contents of the statement addressed to Russian legislators, the delegation represents the interests of one of the three warring sides in Bosnia—the Muslim side. In conversation with journalists, delegation leader Ejup Ganic said that he was "disappointed" with the results of meetings with certain Russian deputies and "encouraged" by his meeting with Ambassador Churkin and Deputy Ambartsumov. He warned against the danger of the spread of Islamic fundamentalism throughout the world, and especially in Russia, in the event of the solution of the Bosnian problem being dragged out. In this connection delegation members mentioned the proposal by Chechnya leader General Dudayev to send his own gunmen to fight on the side of Bosnian Muslims.

Churkin Departs for Peace Talks on Bosnia

OW1602145493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1420 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's deputy foreign minister, the president's special envoy at the peace talks on former Yugoslavia, Vitaliy Churkin, has left Moscow on Tuesday [16 February] heading for New York, where he will be taking part in the peace talks on Bosnia and Hercegovina.

Earlier today, Mr. Churkin held separate meetings with French, British, as well as Serbian and Montenegrin ambassadors in Moscow. He shared with them the highlights of the discussions which Russian foreign minister Andrey Kozyrev had with U.S. special representative for Yugoslavian issues, Reginald Bartholomew.

Churkin Comments on Yugoslav Crisis

PM1602153893 Rome L'UNITA in Italian 10 Feb 93 p12

[Interview with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin by Sergio Sergi in Moscow; date not given]

[Text] Moscow—He is Moscow's expert on the Yugoslav crisis. Vitaliy Churkin, Russia's young and dynamic deputy foreign minister with responsibility for the "European" sector, and former USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman, has just returned from his latest trip to Belgrade. Here is an interview he gave L'UNITA.

[Sergi] Why has the Russian position with regard to the Yugoslav conflict changed over the past few weeks? Or at least it appeared to have done so.

[Churkin] You put it correctly: It appeared to have done so. The current phase began as soon as preparations were under way for the London conference. That made it possible to take part in international efforts with greater determination. From the very start we called for a balanced and objective approach to the conflict. Another aspect which has characterized our position and, if you wish, our diplomatic strategy is that we have always kept our channels of communication with Belgrade open. Of course this was not in order to justify, in some way, acts which deserved condemnation. We were trying to find constructive elements for the international community's consideration. Or else to cultivate such positive elements as emerged. Recently, during the Geneva talks in early January, a situation arose in which the Bosnian Serb leaders took a series of constructive and positive steps. They maintained an open approach to the Vance-Owen plan.

[Sergi] But they did not fully accept it....

[Churkin] Not for the moment. The second important element is that everyone, the cochairmen and those taking part in the talks, recognized that Belgrade has played an important role in this. Besides, there was nothing anti-Croatian in our original position. But measures were adopted by the Croatians which, in our view, carried within them the danger of an escalation of the crisis. That is why we felt that it was necessary to respond in a suitable manner, and so we promoted Resolution 802. We still feel that the international community must put a certain amount of pressure on Croatia.

[Sergi] Are you saying that there is not greater love for the Serbs than for the Croatians?

[Churkin] There has never been "greater" love. Our main task is to find a solution to the conflict. That is why the entire community of nations must respond with great sensitivity to any changes in the situation and send those taking part the necessary messages.

[Sergi] Is this firmer position adopted by Russia over the Yugoslav issue not the result of certain domestic pressures, of the political situation?

[Churkin] I really do not think so. Indeed if I think back to the London conference, we behaved exactly as we are now doing. Furthermore, when the well-known resolutions on the need to introduce sanctions were approved by the Supreme Soviet, we did not respond. Yet when a concrete situation arose, namely Croatian military action, we gave a very clear response.

[Sergi] But everyone says that the Slav roots are showing....

[Churkin] I think they should always show. In Yugoslavia even the Muslims are Slavs. There is no reason to take anyone's side. The important thing is for the situation to return to normal. It would be a serious error—we are being pushed that way but we will not fall into the trap—to take the side of an unjust party just because there are shared roots.

[Sergi] Does Russia fully support the peace plan?

[Churkin] Vance and Owen are the cochairmen of the coordination committee of which Russia is a member too. Indeed I believe that over the months that Vance and Owen have been active, they have had no support stronger than Russia's.

[Sergi] What possibility do you see, as things stand today, of the plan being accepted?

[Churkin] The possibility is excellent. There is no reasonable alternative. Unfortunately it appears that certain Bosnian Muslim leaders still think that the problem can be solved by armed intervention. But that is a catastrophic path, which leads nowhere. Even if those territories were invaded by 1 million soldiers, a political solution would have to be sought all the same. Now there is chance of achieving it. Of course there is a second hypothesis: to try to say that the Vance-Owen plan is not very successful in order to put forward another one. No, no more time can be wasted in trying to start all over again.

[Sergi] Do you think that the United States is likely to accept this plan?

[Churkin] I would like to hope so. Of course it has taken its time, what with the change of administration, obviously....

[Sergi] There are unclear signs coming from that quarter....

[Churkin] Yes, it is natural that the various hypotheses should be discussed and assessed. Different signals are emerging but I hope that the United States also ends up supporting the plan. So far I have heard nothing which might lead me to believe the contrary.

Bosnian Delegation Views Vance-Owen Plan, CIS Mercenaries

MK1602112793 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Feb 93 pp 1, 3

[Reports by Vitaliy Portnikov and Nikolay Ulyanov: "Bosnian Leaders in Moscow. Bosnia-Hercegovina Assembly Appeals to Russian Supreme Soviet"]

[Text] [Portnikov report] The lightning visit to Moscow by a delegation of the presidency and parliament of the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina, which met with Russian Federation Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin and parliamentary International Affairs Committee Chairman Yevgeniy Ambartsumov, "coincided" with the Russian Supreme Soviet's discussion of the Foreign Ministry's policy on the Yugoslav conflict and the Russian-U.S. consultations about the possibilities for a settlement in the Bosnia-Hercegovina situation. Obviously believing that Moscow really has the potential to influence the development of events in the Balkans, the Bosnian leaders deemed it necessary to establish closer contacts with Russian politicians, and particularly parliamentarians, who, in the view of the guests from Sarajevo, are ill-informed about the real state of affairs in Bosnia. Even the composition of the delegation, headed by Bosnia-Hercegovina's "number two" Ejup Ganic, a member of the Bosnia-Hercegovina presidency, was enough to set Russian deputies and journalists thinking. Ganic proved to be the only Muslim in the delegation, while the other two members—Assembly Chairman Miro Lazovic and Bosnia-Hercegovina Presidency Member Tatjana Luic-Mijatovic—are Bosnian Serbs. Thus the composition of the delegation destroyed any impression that the conflict in Bosnia-Hercegovina is exclusively ethnic, and was a kind of living reinforcement of the appeal to Russian parliamentarians from the republic's parliament and presidency, which states that "it is untrue to say that all Bosnian Serbs are on the side of Slobodan Milosevic and Radovan Karadjic." "How can Radovan Karadjic be regarded as leader of the Bosnian Serbs, when every day he drops bombs and grenades on me, a Serb, and the other Serbs living in Sarajevo?" Tatjana Luic-Mijatovic asked journalists. The guests from Sarajevo told the press that they do not agree with that part of the plan put forward by international intermediaries Cyrus Vance and David Owen whereby Bosnia-Hercegovina is divided into ethnic regions. "Living in the same building as me are two Serbs, two Croats, two Muslims, and two people from mixed marriages—they call themselves Bosnians." "Bosnia cannot be divided," said Ejup Ganic, who believes that this division would lead to the continuation of ethnic cleansing. The Bosnia-Hercegovina leaders are in favor of a civil republic in which all nations and ethnic groups would be guaranteed equal rights. They describe what is now happening in the republic as "aggression by Serbia and Montenegro with the support of the radical wing of the Serbian Democratic Party in Bosnia, with the aim of creating 'Greater Serbia.'"

The Bosnian leaders' emotional press conference, which went on for hours, led to an unexpected conclusion: Maybe this terrible war is not concerned with a "conflict between nationalisms," but with the conflict between an almost dead but still struggling internationalism and an energetic national principle. The former is represented by the leadership of Bosnia- Hercegovina—at least, those members who came to Moscow. These people would like to preserve Bosnia-Hercegovina as it was in Tito's and post-Tito Yugoslavia, which the war has buried, and they grieve for that lost harmony. The latter is represented by the leadership of Serbia and the supporters of Radovan Karadjic. Slobodan Milosevic put forward the slogan of uniting all the Serbs who lived in the former Yugoslavia in a single state in response to the urge for independence

shown by Slovenia and Croatia. A slogan that was dangerous to Croatia proved fatal to Bosnia, but the world accepted the division of Yugoslavia along ethnic lines, and Bosnia, which is an astonishing miniature reproduction—in a single city or district, sometimes even in one building—of the ethnic cohabitation of the dismantled state, is now reproducing its fate... But the bloody dispute over Bosnia is not a dispute about its internal structure, but about the borders and forms of its disintegration. Not for nothing does Ejup Ganic say that the Owen- Vance plan is a dangerous precedent for the Russian Federation. After all, the Soviet Union was also divided—and the world recognized this—basically according to ethnic criteria. But now the Russian Federation, with its complex state structure and, most important, different peoples' ethnic territories, is capable of generating more than one Bosnia on its own soil. If any authoritative political force, following Belgrade's example, puts forward the slogan of Russians in a single state, this will immediately tear apart several Commonwealth countries. That is why the scenario for a settlement in Bosnia-Hercegovina must be ideal—so as not to create any such precedent. Is any compromise possible between the leaders of Bosnia-Hercegovina and representatives of national parties involved in the war—and, of course, in its settlement? Thus far, in any case, it is clear that not only Belgrade is appealing to Moscow and hoping for its understanding. Besieged Sarajevo also expects this understanding. In Ejup Ganic's opinion, Russia risks losing out in the Balkans in future if it supports only one side in the conflict, only one country in the region: All the new independent states proclaimed on the territory of the former SFRY would like to cooperate with Russia.

[Ulyanov report] Russian journalists were particularly interested in the fate of the country's volunteers fighting in former Yugoslavia. According to Ejup Ganic's information, confirmed by local newspapers, the Bosnian army has captured 15 volunteers from Russia. "All the equipment of the former Yugoslav People's Army is in the aggressor's hands, but he lacks manpower," and that is why the Belgrade Serbs are interested in recruiting volunteers to their army. There are also Russian mercenaries in the Bosnian troops, but there are considerably fewer of them, since 300,000 people in Bosnia's own army do not have weapons. "We need weapons, not volunteers," Ejup Ganic stated.

Miro Lazovic explained that in the event of the continuation of the conflict, volunteer forces on both the warring sides will be sharply increased. What is most likely, he thinks, is that the Muslims of the ex-USSR will want to support their Bosnian blood- brothers, and many offers to that effect have already been received at the Bosnia-Hercegovina mission in Russia. This confrontation could kindle national strife in Russia and the other multiethnic states of the former Union and Eastern Europe.

Japan Sends Humanitarian Aid to Russia

PM1702113193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Feb 93 p 2

[Report by Georgiy Melikyants: "Japanese Contribution To Humanitarian Aid"]

[Text] The main news from the 10 February routine session of the Commission on Questions of Humanitarian and Technical Assistance under the Russian Federation Government, chaired by A. Shokhin, vice premier of the Russian Government, was the report that the Japanese Government has provided 6.25 billion yen (around $100 million) in emergency humanitarian aid.

Commission deputy chairman A. Zhitnikov dwelt on the formation of international mechanisms for the coordination of foreign aid at the present stage. In particular, an International Group to Give Technical Assistance to Russia has been set up and is operating on a multilateral basis. A bilateral Assistance Commission was also set up on agreement between the Japanese and Russian governments.

The aid targets are clearly indicated—Buryat and Yakut (Sakha) Republics, Maritime, Khabarovsk, and Krasnoyarsk krays, a number of Siberian oblasts, as well as Moscow and St. Petersburg. There are plans to simplify customs and immigration procedures. The humanitarian freight will not attract import duty. An efficient system has been agreed on for storing, distributing, selling, and auctioning these goods. There is a special point about the immediate use of the accumulated funds and accrued interest to give aid to the sick, to orphans, pensioners, and other strata of the population without social protection. Some of the goods, chiefly medicines and baby food, will be provided free of charge, but again to specific addresses.

The session participants received an interesting document—information on the distribution of humanitarian aid to the Russian Federation. The leaders are the United States with 92,000 tonnes, including 262 tonnes of medicines and 167 tonnes of medical equipment; Britain, with 97,000 tonnes, including 35 tonnes of medicines, and Germany, with 50,000 tonnes, including 2,000 tonnes of medicines. A total of 476,000 tonnes of various types of goods was received in 1992.

Zotov: Latvian Charge on Withdrawal 'Devoid of Any Basis'

OW1602161393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1525 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dimitry Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The statement by the head of the Latvian delegation to the negotiations with Russia, Yanis Dinevich, on the deviation of the Russian delegation from the former

position on the date of the withdrawal of troops from Latvia "is devoid of any basis." This is contained in a statement distributed on Tuesday by the head of the state delegation of the Russian Federation to the negotiations with Latvia, Sergey Zotov.

He confirmed Russia's readiness to complete the withdrawal of troops from the territory of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia in 1994 if they could reach agreement on a number of related questions. Russia insists, in particular, on granting the troops legal status which would make it possible for them to function normally during the period of withdrawal. Besides, some strategic objects must be left on a temporary basis in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. The Baltics, as considered in Moscow, should withdraw the claim for damages for the 1940-1991 period and participate in the construction of housing for servicemen in the units being withdrawn. Russia also insists on transit guarantees for military goods to Kaliningrad region and a decision on the question of compensation for immovable property left behind by the withdrawing troops.

According to Zotov, the change by the Latvian delegation to cooperate in the settlement of the disputed question would assist the quick conclusion of the corresponding international agreement "the absence of which has led to the suspension of the withdrawal of troops from the Baltics."

Moscow Continues Barents Sea Negotiations With Norway

OW1602151093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1419 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Tuesday [16 February] the Russian foreign affairs minister, Andrey Kozyrev, received the ambassador of Norway to Moscow, Dafinn Stenset, who delivered to him a personal message from the head of the Norwegian foreign policy department, Torvald Stolteberg.

Interfax was told at the department of information and press that the document was on questions related with the demarcation of the economic zone and the continental shelf in the Barent sea (in 1926 the authorities of the former USSR unilaterally drew a line in the Arctic Ocean demarcating the polar possession of the Soviet Union. Norway never recognized it and continues to insist on a demarcation on the principles of the middle line - IF [INTERFAX]).

A staff of the foreign ministry involved in Russian-Norwegian relations explained to an Interfax correspondent that negotiations on this problem have continued for about two decades already and only recently did they achieve a preliminary agreement related to the northern part of the disputed area.

From the words of the diplomat it follows that now the discussion is on a small but economically important part of the Barent sea. It is in this district that Russian fishermen are carrying out intensive fishery and in the event of changing the polar possession of the former USSR the interests of Russian fishing enterprises may seriously suffer.

Besides a number of specialists think that there is adequate basis to suppose that there is a large oil and gas deposit in this zone of the sea shelf. Interfax learnt that it has not been possible to establish the viability of extraction since according to existing international practise the parties claiming the right to this or that part of the land or sea cannot carry out any geological surveys on the disputed territory.

Political Affairs

Yeltsin, Khasbulatov Hold Closed-Door Meeting

LD1602155693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1528 GMT 16 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow, 16 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—A meeting between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov began this evening in the Kremlin.

It is being held at the initiative of Boris Yeltsin and is aimed at seeking an agreement between the executive and legislative branches of power to overcome the deep contradictions between them which are hindering the implementation of the economic reforms. In the opinion of the president, along with such an agreement, the referendum which is planned for 11 April may solve the problem of the delimitation of the powers of authority. Boris Yeltsin thinks that the preparations for the agreement and the referendum should be conducted in parallel.

The first meeting between the president of Russia and the speaker of parliament, in which Constitutional Court Chairman Valeriy Zorkin took part, took place on 11 February. On that occasion an agreement was reached that subsequent meetings would take place without the participation of Valeriy Zorkin, so that he would be able to be "some kind of disinterested judge."

It is expected that Boris Yeltsin and Ruslan Khasbulatov will today put forward their proposals on the principles for a constitutional accord on settling the conflict between the executive and legislative branches of power.

The meeting is being held behind closed doors.

Leaders Set Up Power Division Working Group

OW1602173893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1726 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Boris Yeltsin and Parliament Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov negotiated in the Kremlin on Tuesday [16 February]. The President's press secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov told journalists that a working group was set up to formulate a constitutional accord within 10 days.

Drafts of an agreement "On Coordinated Efforts of Federal Executive and Legislative Bodies Stabilize the Constitutional Order and Solve the Country's Economic Crisis" will be exchanged on February 17.

In the course of negotiations, the press secretary said, the President called for convening an extraordinary session of the Congress of People's Deputies with a sole item on the agenda, ratification of the accord. The President thinks that the Congress can be convened as early as in the first ten days of March.

The President emphasized that until the accord is ratified, the executive branch would proceed with preparation for the referendum. Because the Supreme Soviet drags its feet in wording the questions for the referendum, the President's package of questions will be published within a few days.

Yeltsin gave permission to publish his draft of the accord.

When the 20 minute meeting was over, Yeltsin made it plain that the accord would be a letter of understanding between the President and the Supreme Soviet as a standing body of the Congress.

The membership of the working group will be determined on February 17 by mid-day. The President appointed Vladimir Shumeyko and the Supreme Soviet, Nikolay Ryabov as co-leaders of the working group.

After the meeting the President immediately left for his country house. His draft of the accord is expected to be published on February 17.

Yeltsin 'Satisfied' With Meeting

OW1702131193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1257 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin is satisfied with the progress and results of his Tuesday [16 February] meeting with parliament chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov. The statement was made during an interview by Interfax correspondent Vyacheslav Terekhov with Anatoliy Krasikov, the head of the president's press service. In his opinion, the fact that the interview lasted all of 20 minutes does not indicate a lack of desire on the parts of the two leaders to discuss in detail the problems which stand before them. The sides, continued Krasikov, were assiduously concentrating and holding negotiations on a clearly-defined program. The presidential team, said Krasikov, held the view that the president's proposal to hold a special congress for the parliamentary leadership was entirely unexpected.

Representatives of the president and the parliament must, by the end of February, work out a single text of the Constitutional agreement. If this group's work is successful, it will be recommended to the Supreme Councilthat a special Congress of People's Deputies be called from 1 March to 10 March. Krasikov pointed out that if the Congress ratifies the suggested common draft, the referendum will be unnecessary. If no agreement can be reached on the common draft, he continued, or if the Congress does not ratify it, then the referendum will be inevitable. Krasikov noted that such a case was not ruled out during the meeting with Khasbulatov.

The head of the press service specifically noted that such a position on the president's part could not be called "dictation" or "efforts to impose one's opinion." When one talks about leaving the final decision to the voters, he said, it is a sign not of dictation, but of democracy.

Krasikov reported that work on the wording of the questions to be included in the referendum will be continued until a final clarification of the Supreme Council's or Congress's position on the Constitutional agreement.

Accord Could Supersede Referendum

OW1602200093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1929 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A constitutional accord between Yeltsin, Khasbulatov, and Zorkin can supersede the April referendum, Mikhail Mityukov, Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Legislation Committee told Interfax on Tuesday [16 February]. This accord, he thinks, can become a draft resolution for the next session of the Congress of People's Deputies to discuss.

Mityukov said that he had suggested this to the Supreme Soviet Chairman. The MP thinks that if the heads of the three branches of power come to an agreement, the President may ask the Supreme Soviet to convene an extraordinary Eighth Congress of People's Deputies late in February or early in March.

The draft resolution of the Congress, the Committee Chairman thinks, should include putting off the referendum to the fall of 1994 in the light of the social, political and economic situation in the country. Mityukov said that this document should also provide for amending the existing Constitution which to make a stringent division between the rights and duties of the President, Congress, Supreme Soviet, and Government.

Mityukov thinks that the Constitution must be adopted by the Congress, following which it should be dissolved as an unduly cumbersome structure which is more suitable for political bickering than for serious legislative activities.

Political Observer Comments on Meeting

LD1702130193

[Editorial Report] Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian, in its "Novaya Volna" program at 0830 GMT on 17 February carries an eight-minute interview with political observer Yuliy Semenov by presenter Vladimir Konyukhov about the meeting between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov on 16 February.

Semenov explains: "Yesterday's meeting was fairly short—it is being said that it lasted only 20 minutes—but in organizational terms it was fairly productive."

Asked what Yeltsin and Khasbulatov agreed on, he said they agreed that in the next 10 days, on the basis of two drafts which evidently already exist, a working group is to elaborate one draft of a constitutional agreement. He explains that this group is to be formed by midday today. It will have two leaders: from the president's side First Vice Premier Vladimir Shumeyko; and from parliament's side Supreme Soviet Deputy Chairman Nikolay Ryabin. An exchange of draft agreements will take place this afternoon.

Konyukhov asks Semenov what the aim of this agreement is. Semenov says that the aim is to stabilize the constitutional system and to get the country out of the economic crisis. He explains: "This requires concerted actions by Russia's executive and legislative power. One thing which the two sides will evidently agree on is that, first of all, it it is necessary to give the government the opportunity to work in peace, look for a way out of the crisis, and, as far as possible, avoid pressure on it from the side of the supreme executive power, that is the president, and from the side of the leadership of parliament."

Semenov continues: "The presidential option of this constitutional agreement is to be published today. I called the president's press service and was told that this would probably happen this afternoon via the news agencies—ITAR-TASS, RIA and INTERFAX—the text of the agreement would be made public. Perhaps in the evening broadcasts it will be possible to acquaint listeners with this."

He goes on to say: "In the next few days the presidential side promises to publish the formulations of the agreement in a package. what does this mean? This is not simply an addition to the formulations which the Congress has adopted or will adopt and which are being proposed by the chairman of the Supreme Soviet, but these are the formulations which the president proposes for all other issues and the submission of this as a whole to a referendum. Regarding Khasbulatov's option, this has been set out in an interview in NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA today."

Konyukhov asks: "Then it is envisaged that this agreement will be signed or initialled?"

Semenov responds: "A conciliation commission has already been formed for that purpose by the Congress of People's Deputies, also including among others Constitutional Court Chairman Zorkin, after which ratification at the Congress is planned. Both sides agree that the Congress should be as short as possible—one day. The idea is that it should ratify the agreement if it is reached and confirm whether or not a referendum will be held and will approve, in the event of it being held, the formulas and questions being submitted."

Semenov goes on to say: "Until now it was known that the president believes that as long as the Congress has not changed the decision, it is necessary to prepare the referendum. He is bascally in favor of the referendum,

while Khasbulatov was one of the first to oppose the referendum and to advocate revising this decision. But in the past few days something happened: Khasbulatov started coming out in favor of the referendum and is even proposing his own formulations. I think that this is a kind of demonstration of boldness calculated at proving that he is not afraid of the referendum and that at the Congress the corps of deputies will be able to make that decision which he deems necessary. He will then apologize, shrug his shoulders and say: I wanted to have the referendum but the deputies have the final word."

Semenov says in conclusion: "Another variant is also possible at this referendum—and according to all preliminary polls it is known that a relative majority of the electorate is prepared to support the president and to a far lesser degree, to support the leadership of the Supreme Soviet—it is possible that he, the chairman of the Supreme Soviet, is prepared to play a kind of kamikaze to drag the president down with him. If this is the case, this means that behind Khasbulatov are very substantial forces which are looking far ahead, who perhaps even want the referendum to fail, and that, evidently, he is being promised something substantial in the long term."

Shumeyko Addresses Kremlin Conference on Referendum

LD1302103593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0915 GMT 13 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Podyapolskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 13 Feb—Executive power bodies in Russia cannot question the idea of holding the (April) referendum either from the legal or political points of view, Vladimir Shumeyko, first deputy prime minister of the Russian Federation, said at a conference held in the Kremlin today of leaders of the federation's executive power bodies. A decision to hold a referendum was made by the congress, Shumeyko said, and the congress alone can rescind that decision. Whatever agreements the three branches of power may reach, they will not be a legitimate reason for cancelling the referendum, he stressed. He also said that the chairman of the Supreme Soviet and the chairman of the Constitutional Court "can hide themselves behind a decision of their collective bodies," while the president has no such option, and he cannot give up this plan.

In this connection Vladimir Shumeyko, who chairs a government commission for holding the referendum on the basic principles of the constitutional structure of Russia, confirmed that it would continue work on preparing the referendum, and called on the leaders of executive power bodies to do everything they can to organize the technical aspect of this event.

Vladimir Shumeyko criticized attempts by the speaker of the parliament to discredit the idea of holding the referendum. He expressed the opinion that "we will not be able to get away from the referendum, whether in April or at some later point, because the congress will not adopt the new Constitution."

Shumeyko Addresses Roundtable of Political Parties

OW1502123093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1203 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The first vice-premier of the Russian Federation, Shumeyko, said that the Russian executive power is "DEFINITELY certain that to conduct the referendum on the fundamental position of the constitution is necessary." [sentence as received] Opening a session of the round table discussion of political parties and movements on Monday [15 February] in Moscow he expressed the opinion that "even if the question of cancelling the referendum is agreed upon between the president, the chairman of the Supreme Soviet and the chairman of the Constitutional Court the decision will not be legitimate since only the Congress of people's deputies has the right to cancel the referendum."

Shumeyko noted that so far the president does not have the questions to be asked in the referendum. According to him, the 12 questions which were given to Yeltsin by the chairman of the Supreme Soviet were approved by the presidium of the supreme soviet and not the Supreme Soviet itself which is yet to consider the issue.

The first vice-premier denied the criticism by Ruslan Khasbulatov in "Rossiyskaya gazetta" where he "proves that to conduct a referendum now will be a judicial folly, the society is not prepared for this." "We will continue to prepare for the referendum daily without interrupting this work," Shumeyko said. This statement caused a protest from the leader of the parliamentary faction "Industrial Union", Yuriy Gekht who walked out of the hall.

The deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet, Nikolay Ryabov, expressed the doubt that with the present distribution of political forces it is possible to conduct the referendum and even more doubted that there could be a positive outcome. "Conducting the referendum now will only stimulate further political crisis and widen the split in society."

Participating in the round table discussion are the deputy chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet, Nikolay Ryabov, first vice- premier Vladimir Shumeyko, commander of the United forces of the CIS, Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, leader of the Democratic Party of Russia, Nikolay Travkin, leader of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, Arkadiy Volskiy, one of the leaders of the People's party "Free Russia", Vasiliy Lipitsky, leader of the Communist Party of Russia, Gennadiy Zyuganov, and others.

Second Communist Party Congress Opens

LD1302114593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1010 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow, 13 Feb—The second extraordinary congress of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, which is to restore and unite the party, has opened today in one of the rest homes at the Klyazma reservoir near Moscow. Among the 650 delegates from all over Russia, there are a number of the former leaders of the Russian Federation Communist Party headed by Valentin Kuptsov. The congress will last two days, and its agenda includes discussion and adoption of the program documents and charter and the election of the ruling bodies.

The congress is also being attended by recent inmates of the "Matrosskaya Tishina" prison: Anatoliy Lukyanov, Gennadiy Yanayev, Oleg Baklanov, Oleg Sheynin, Yuriy Plekhanov, Vladimir Kryuchkov, and Vasiliy Starodubtsev.

The Communists ended up close to Moscow because they could not find anywhere within the city. The problem is that, in a recent statement by the Russian Federation Justice Ministry, the activity of the second congress of the Russian Federation Communist Party was qualified as "an attempt at the illegal restitution of the CPSU and the RSFSR Communist Party." On the other hand, a decision by the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation last November recognized the right to exist of the core organizations of the RSFSR Communist Party and their organization on a territorial basis "on condition that they organize registration as a political party and that the demands of the constitution and laws of the Russian Federation be observed just as by other parties." An explanation by the press service of the Constitutional Court, divulged today at the congress, confirms the right of the core organizations of the Communist Party to set up their own party.

"It is a matter not only of restoring the Communist Party but also of rehabilitating the Communist movement as a whole," Valentin Kuptsov stated, opening the congress.

In the opinion of Aleksey Prigarin, leader of the Union of Communists, who talked to an ITAR-TASS correspondent, a struggle is due to develop at the congress over the program statement. "Everything depends on whether it is Communist or Social Democratic in character. Depending on this and on the attitude toward the CPSU, the Communist Party of Russia will either split or not split," he added.

Aleksandr Buzgalin, chairman of the Party of Labor, who is attending the congress as a guest, expressed the view in a conversation with an ITAR-TASS correspondent that the democratic trend, which wants a real renewal of the party, constitutes a clear minority at the congress. According to him, the leading positions in the congress organizing committee are occupied by leaders of the Socialist Party of the Working People, who favor parliamentary struggle and political compromises with the authorities. The ordinary grassroots delegates "who are sincerely struggling for communism by extremely ineffective methods" gravitate toward an alliance with neo-Stalinists and patriots.

Kryuchkov, Lukyanov Warn Against 'Split'

OW1402135393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1325 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ex-leader of the KGB, Vladimir Kryuchkov, told Interfax during the 2nd extraordinary congress of the Russian Communist Party, that a possible split is the worst danger threatening the newly-restored Russian Communist Party.

The same fears were expressed by ex-chairman of the Soviet parliament, Anatoliy Lukyanov, who welcomed the ban on factions within the Russian Communist Party. This ban, he said, will strengthen the unity of the party members.

Lukyanov also expressed fears lest the communists might get back to the old vices—bureaucratic centralism, nomenklatura, haughtiness and privileges.

The Russian Communist Party's rules, adopted on Sunday, put a ban on factions and on dual party membership. The rules also have the provision which says that this party is the heir of the property which belonged to the Soviet Communist Party and to the former Communist Party of Russia.

Communists Seek To Prevent Country's 'Capitalization'

OW1402190893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1801 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Participants of the 2nd extraordinary congress of Russian communist, which is being currently staged in the suburbs of Moscow, have characterized as "anti-popular" the regime existing in Russia.

The communists' immediate objective, they say, is to avert 'capitalization' of the country. In order to effect this, reads the political statement which the congress is due to adopt later today, it would be necessary to make use of all the available stratagems, methods and forms of political struggle.

According to a report provided by INTERFAX correspondent, already elected to the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, have been former leader of the RSFSR Communist Party Valentin Kuptsov, Colonel General Albert Makashov, former chairman of the USSR Supreme

Soviet Anatoliy Lukyanov, and co-chairman of the National Salvation Front Gennadiy Zyuganov.

One of the Russian communist party leaders, Valentin Kuptsov, has called on the communists to get off the state of euphoria and stop presuming that workers' groups would actively support them.

"We have to state that the acuteness of socio-economic problems in workers' groups has been alleviated by the workers' high wages. This points to the need for us to actively promote communist ideas," Valentin Kuptsov said.

Valentin Kuptsov maintains it would be necessary to explain to the people, in anticipation of the national referendum on the main principles of the country's new constitution scheduled for April 11, that they will have to make a decision in regards to a change of the country's constitutional system.

One of the leaders of the Russian communists, former Deputy General Secretary of the CPSU Vladimir Ivashko, was emphatically against any referenda. "Unless the president, the premier and the other Russian leaders stop indulging in their vain speculations and stupidities, we will not sow any wheat this year," he said in an interview for INTERFAX.

Vladimir Ivashko believes that the resurrection of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation stands out as one of the major political events in the life of Russia. In his words, the Russian communist party already has 450,000 members in its ranks and he hopes their number would increase dramatically after the party has been 'constitutionalized' by the congress.

Mr Ivashko regards as a "big mistake" the ongoing contention between the communist party of the Russian Federation and the other communist- and socialist-oriented parties. "Our party has already suffered too many losses from its search of enemies," he observed. "Now we ought to find mutual language."

Congress Adopts Political Statement

LD1502100893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0759 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Text] Moscow, 15 Feb—Adhering to ideas of socialism and democracy in the form of soviets, stopping capitalism from making headway into the country, creating a planned market economy, signing a new interstate treaty between CIS countries - these are the main directions of the Russian Federation Communist Party's activities as set out in a political statement adopted Sunday evening by delegates of the Second (restitutive and unifying) Congress of the Russian Federation Communist Party.

The two-day congress, held in a rest and rehabilitation center at the Klyazma reservoir in the Moscow countryside, was attended by 650 delegates representing different parts of Russia. Anatoliy Lukyanov, Gennadiy Yanayev, Oleg Baklanov, Oleg Shenin, Yuriy Plekhanov, Vladimir Kryuchkov, and Vasiliy Starodubtsev, who were incarcerated until recently at the Matrosskaya Tishina prison, were also present.

The political statement of the communist forum notes that "the party will build its work upon Leninist organizational principles" and will be a party "in opposition to the present political regime." As for the economy, the communists favor a social thrust to reforms, an end to forcible privatization, the optimumum combination of various forms of ownership, the free transfer of land to the unlimited ownership of and use by state, collective, private, and other holdings.

In the social sphere, the party intends to "strive for the restoration and strengthening in the Constitution of a guaranteed right to work and rest, the free provision of housing to the needy, free health care, education and culture." It is stressed that the Communist Party will defend the state integrity of Russia as a federal republic

The Congress also adopted the Rules of the Communist Party which note that the Communist party of the Russian Federation "is the legal successor to the property of and the owner of the property of the RSFSR Communist Party."

The participants in the forum voted to set up an 89-member Central Executive Committee (CEC) and a Central Control and Auditing commission (CCAC). Gennadiy Zyuganov was elected chairman of the CEC at its first session. Valentin Kuptsov, Yuriy Belov, Svetlana Goryacheva, Mikhail Lapshin, Viktor Zorkaltsev, and Ivan Rybkin were elected deputy chairmen.

In an interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent, Aleksandr Buzgalin, chairman of the Labor Party, who attended the congress as a guest, voiced the view that democratic forces who seek a genuine renewal of the party were in an obvious minority at the Congress. He said that leading positions in the Congress Organizing Committee were taken by leaders of the Socialist Workers Party, who are inclined toward parliamentary methods of struggle and political compromises with the authorities.

A recent statement by the Russian Federation Justice Ministry described the efforts to convene the Second Congress of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation as "an attempt to bring about the unlawful restoration of the CPSU and the Communist Party of the RSFSR." However, a ruling issued by the Russian Federation Constitutional Court in November last year recognised the right of the primary organisations of the RSFSR Communist Party to exist and to set themselves up on a territorial basis, "provided the requirements of the Constitution and the laws of the Russian Federation are complied with in the event that such organizations are established as a political party existing on an equal basis with other parties."

Congress Ends; Officials Elected

LD1402200293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1930 GMT 14 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[Text] Moscow February 14 TASS—The second (restorational and unifying) congress of the Russian Communist Party which was held in a summer hotel outside Moscow ended on Sunday.

The congress was attended by 650 delegates from all over Russia, including 1991 August failed coup plotters Anatoliy Lukyanov, Gennadiy Yanayev, Oleg Baklanov, Oleg Sheinin, Yuriy Plekhanov, Vladimir Kryuchkov and Vasiliy Starodubtsev who have been released from under custody pending trial.

The congress proclaimed "the adherence to the ideas of socialism, people's government by soviets, prevention of the country's capitalisation, the establishment of a planned market economy and the conclusion of a new inter-state agreement between CIS states" as the main priorities of the Russian Communist Party's activities.

A political statement adopted by the congress said the "party will base its work on Leninist organisational principles" and will be "in opposition to the present political regime."

The participants called for a social orientation of reforms, an end to forceful privatisation, optimal combination of different forms of ownership, free-of-charge permanent lease of land by state, collective, farm and other organisations.

The party is determined to "fight for the restoration and reiteration in the constitution of a guaranteed right to work and leisure, free housing, health care, education and culture." The party also stands for the preservation of Russia's integrity.

The congress adopted a party charter which describes the party as the "successor to and owner of the property of the Communist Party of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic."

The participants voted to set up a 89-member Central Executive Committee and a Central Control and Auditing Commission. They also adopted several resolutions, including "for the unity of communists' activities," "for communists' rights and freedom of political convictions," "on relations between Russian communists and communist parties and movements in former Soviet republics."

After the congress, the Central Executive Committee held its first session which elected by an overwhelming majority with one against and one abstention Gennadiy Zyuganov as the committee chairman. Valentin Kuptsov, Yuriy Belov, Svetlana Goryacheva, Mikhail Lapshin, Viktor Zorkaltsev and Ivan Rybkin were named as his deputies.

Economic Issues

Chernomyrdin Chairs Conference on Economic Reform

LD1302090193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0740 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 13 Feb—A conference between the Russian Government and leaders of territorial bodies of executive authority began in the Kremlin today under the chairmanship of Viktor Chernomyrdin. It is to examine questions connected with the course of economic reform and the upcoming referendum on the foundations of Russia's constitutional structure. Taking part are members of the Cabinet of Ministers and leaders of bodies of executive authority from republics within the Russian Federation, krays, oblasts, autonomous oblasts and autonomous okrugs, and the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg.

According to the conference program, Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the council of ministers, is to deliver a report "on the interaction of federal and territorial bodies of executive authority of the Russian Federation in implementing the socioeconomic program for 1993." Also expected is a speech by First Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Shumeyko on the all-Russian referendum, a report by the secretary of the Constitutional Commission on its work on the draft of the new Russian Constitution, and information on the state of affairs in agriculture and the tasks for the upcoming period by Viktor Khlystun, the Russian agriculture minister.

Underlines Need for 'Strong Regional Policy'

LD1302102493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0850 GMT 13 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 13 Feb—"The government's main task is to start shaping a machinery of regional policies which will help preserve Russia as a single entity from the economic and political point of view," Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers announced today at a conference held in the Kremlin of the government and leaders of local executive power bodies.

In his 30-minute report Viktor Chernomyrdin said that "reforms in Russia will not be successful without a strong regional policy." He admitted that in 1992 "Russia had no regional policy." Having stressed that "the increasingly important role played by the regions in restructuring the economy is becoming irreversible," the head of the Russian cabinet pointed out that fulfilling this task has been hampered by a slump in production and a crisis within some regional power structures.

Viktor Chernomyrdin stated that an "intensification of separatist processes in the regions" can observed. He noted that "there are a few in the world who want to see a strong Russia in the future," and "everything is being done to get us to 'come apart at the seams.'"

The chairman of the Russian Council of Ministers said that he did not agree with the viewpoint now current that "strong regions make a strong state." "We must create all the conditions needed for the working individual in every region. The working individual should be able to live equally well throughout Russia. This is the government's main task," he emphasized.

Viktor Chernomyrdin declared that it is necessary to combine two processes: Regionalization on the basis of the Federation Treaty and integration of the federation's subjects. In this connection he advocated the creation of a well-proportioned system for interaction between federal and territorial bodies of executive power for the purpose of linking their interests in order to implement reform. He also stated that "no effective regional policy is possible" without taking account of the changed geopolitical position of a number of regions that since the disintegration of the USSR have become frontier regions, or without a substantial broadening of the economic powers of the regions and a pursuance of the task of preserving Russia's integrity.

Shumeyko Presents 1992-1993 Economic Report

PM1602183193 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 16 Feb 93 pp 2-3

[Report by Vladimir Shumeyko, first vice premier of the Russian Government, at 11 February enlarged session of the Council of Ministers-Government of the Russian Federation, marked "Exclusively for ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI": "How We Lived in 1992, How We Are Going To Live in 1993"]

[Text] In January 1992 the Russian Government began implementing radical economic reforms in an exceptionally complex situation when the threat of economic collapse, the disintegration of the production and social infrastrucure, hunger in the large industrial centers, and mass social upheavals was quite real.

As a result of the year's work that development of events was prevented. In the past year there have been considerable improvements from the viewpoint of the reform. The administrative-command system of management has been largely eliminated, the market mechanism has begun working, although not without hitches, the financial and monetary system has been preserved, the ruble became convertible in current operations, large-scale systemic transformations have begun, the process of privatization involving broad strata of the population is developing, and social and political stability in society has been preserved on the whole.

Unfortunately, the government failed to resolve the most important medium-term task facing it—the achievement of macroeconomic stabilization. This is mainly due to the many compromises with the legislative power, the subjects of the Federation, sectors, and individual enterprises, which have wrecked the determination to pursue a restrictive financial and monetary-credit policy; imperfections in the processes of liberalization, especially in the sphere of domestic and foreign trade; and the slow pace of the demonopolization and privatization of large industrial enterprises. The increasing resistance of antireform forces also played its part: This has been particularly evident in the slowing down of institutional transformations and in the delay in creating the legislative base of the reform.

As a result the present government is now, at the start of 1993, facing a whole series of problems whose scale and significance are comparable with those facing the previous government a year ago. Against the background of the sharp fall in the population's living standard and the decline in production above all, this is the real threat of a hyperinflation which could swiftly not only destroy all the results of last year's reform but also reduce society to a state of deep economic, social, and political depression.

It is quite obvious that the question submitted to today's enlarged session of the government is of the greatest, fundamental significance. The further implementation of the economic reform, democratic transformations, and in general the fate of Russia as a sovereign federative state depend on how thoroughly and comprehensively the mistakes and omissions that have been made are studied, what conclusions are drawn, and the kind of real, concrete actions in which they are embodied.

Given that each participant in today's government session has a copy of the Economy Ministry's extensive report on the results of the Russian Federation's socioeconomic development in 1992 I shall dwell in my speech only on the most important results and mistakes of 1992 from the standpoint of the government's action program for 1993.

1. The Political Sphere

To briefly analyze the changes in the political sphere, the Russian Federation Government's greatest mistake here was its inconsistency in elaborating the economic aspects of modern Russian statehood. To be fair it should be noted that **Russia's relations with its constituent parts have become considerably less acute politically and economically since the conclusion of the Federation Treaty but could flare up again if the treaty is not implemented and remains just a piece of paper.** From the moment of signing the treaty the government faced the task of its practical implementation in all its diversity. Of course, the Federation Treaty greatly complicated the work of the federal government. After all, when normative acts are issued now they must be carefully correlated with the treaty and its protocols and appendixes, and the drafts of many acts must be sent to the subjects of the Federation. One and the same act will often contain different prescriptions depending on the addressee, including on one

and the same question, and even in respect of uniform subjects of the Federation (for example, some points are addressed to the Republic of Bashkortostan, others to the Republic of Sakha-Yakutia).

The conclusion of the Federation Treaty makes it necessary to review the competence of the ministries, state committees, and departments of the Russian Federation so as to ensure their conformity to the treaty. After all, the actual existence of the central organs of the Federation is evidence of the day-to-day exercise by the subjects of the Federation of certain management functions and powers within the framework of the corresponding objects of jurisdiction.

By the beginning of the implementation of the radical reform the Russian regions had significant differences in the level of their economic potential and the extent to which social problems had been resolved.

Those regions possessing strategic raw material resources—precious and nonferrous metals, fuel and energy resources, stocks of timber—and producers of commodity grain, sugar, and meat and dairy produce were in a more advantageous position.

But the greatest slump in industrial production in 1992 occurred in the European parts of Russia (17.5 percent as against 2 percent in 1991), in the east of the country (15.2 percent as against 3.5 percent in 1991), and in the northern regions (14.8 percent against 4 percent).

In 1992 the socioeconomic differences among the population in terms of income intensified noticeably. The greatest increase in monetary incomes compared with 1991 was in Tyumen Oblast (13.1 times), the Republic of Khakasia (11.4 times), Irkutsk Oblast (11 times), the Republic of Sakha (10.8), and Magadan, Sverdlovsk, and Chita oblasts (9.3-9.7), while the smallest was in Kaliningrad Oblast (4.7), the North Ossetian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Republic of Mariy-El (5.2), the Republic of Kalmykia Khalm Tangch (5.3), and Stavropol Kray (5.5).

There are substantial regionalized differences too in the level of consumer prices. **Prices were highest in the majority of regions of the Urals, Siberia, and the Far East and the North, where they rose by a factor of 22-36. The proportion of loss-making enterprises in those same regions was considerably higher than in the rest.**

In the conditions of increasing crisis situations in the regions the government adopted in 1992 more than 40 decisions according to which the republics, krays, oblasts, and other national and administrative formations of Russia were granted various benefits and additional rights in the economic and social spheres.

In all, 1 trillion 4 billion 613 million rubles [R] were allocated for these purposes. However, the government's greatest **political and indeed economic mistake** on this issue was the unsystematic distribution of subsidies, credits, and benefits, the lack of a full range of specific interconnected regional development programs elaborated jointly with the subjects of the Federation, and the lack of coordination on this question with the Supreme Soviet, which also allocated around R8 billion to individual regions from its reserve fund. As a result both of the lack of an ordered benefit distribution system based on strict economic forecasts and of increased pressure on the Federal Government from the governments of the republics within the Russian Federation, kray and oblast administrations, and the leaders of individual enterprises and organizations aimed at achieving a redistribution of resources in their favor, by the end of 1992 the existing distortions in the socioeconomic development of individual regions had not only not been eliminated but in a number of cases had even intensified.

For example, the government and the Supreme Soviet allocated R114.261 billion to the Republic of Komi, and R5.451 billion to Vologda Oblast. In the Central Region the industrially more developed Tula Oblast received R7.191 billion, while Smolensk Oblast received just R2.215 billion. Given the average indicator of the volume of resources allocated per 1,000 inhabitants of a given territory of R6.75 billion, in the Republic of Komi that indicator was R90.96 million, in Arkhangelsk Oblast just R2.92 million, in Ryazan and Orel Oblasts around R2 million, in Stavropol Kray R1.7 million, and in the Republic of Bashkortostan just R320,000.

Maybe for the period of the structural reorganization and conversion of industrial production more resources ought indeed to be allocated to the industrial and raw materials-extracting regions in particular, or, as Nizhniy Novgorod Governor Boris Nemtsov says, "more resources should be allocated to those who are implementing the reforms best"; but everything must, I stress yet again, be based on precise economic calculations set out in a single program for the socioeconomic development of all regions.

The lack of close cooperation between the Government of the Russian Federation and the administrations of the subjects of the Federation and the mixing up of the functions of the authorities made it impossible in 1992 to form an effective system of strong **executive power** permeating all levels of Russia's national state system.

It has not yet been possible to resolve the fundamental question of the distribution of state power among its branches also in terms of the levels of the state hierarchy, beginning with the local self-management level. All these matters should be regulated in the new Constitution of the Russian Federation, the process of whose adoption has become protracted and complex. In this regard the referendum on its basic provisions could be a significant accelerating factor.

2. The Economics of the Production Sphere

The main instruments of radical reform in 1992 were:

price liberalization;

privatization of state and municipal enterprises;

demonopolization and commercialization of trade;

tough credit and monetary policy, restriction of the money supply, and an increase in loan interest rates;

a drastic reduction in budgetary spending, particularly arms procurements, centralized investment, and budgetary grants and subsidies;

provision of a stable fiscal base operating in inflationary conditions, and the introduction of value-added tax;

implementation of defense industry conversion;

liberalization of foreign economic activity based on limitation of the spheres of licensing and import restriction;

elimination of the system of administrative distribution of resources, abolition of state funding, state orders, and quotas, and formation of a market in the means of production based on a system of exchanges, trading houses, and other market structures and mechanisms.

Price liberalization and the associated market transformations were the main result of the past year. However, the method used to effect it was one of the government's mistakes. I would remind you that liberalization occurred in three stages. During the first stage, in January 1992, most wholesale and retail prices were liberalized with the exception of essentials, energy sources, municipal services, transport, rents, and trade markups.

During the second stage, in March 1992, prices of commodities were liberalized, while another group of prices relating mainly to municipal services and local transport were handed over to local organs to regulate.

Finally, during the third stage, in September 1992, prices of energy sources were partially liberalized.

Given this "delayed" and incomplete liberalization of prices various opportunities rapidly manifested themselves for various sectors of the national economy to raise their prices. Raw materials sectors, the metal and chemical industries, and certain others obtained a one-sided advantage when setting their price demands for producers geared to the end consumers. Whereas the former group of sectors was able to "incorporate" its inflationary expectations in its prices without adapting to real production costs, the latter group of producers soon encountered a limited ability to pay among their end consumers, among them the population and budget-funded establishments.

There was a drastic redistribution of profits and increased profitability in sectors of the fuel and energy complex, the metallurgical, construction materials, and chemical industries, and other sectors that do not work to the end consumer.

The disparity in prices was one of the initial elements in a chain of nonpayments inasmuch as consumers of raw materials and semimanufactures, unable to demand the necessary financial resources from their end consumers, themselves became unable to pay for output provided by intermediary sectors.

The abortive revaluation of circulating capital as of 1 January 1992 also had an adverse effect. In the absence of a mechanism to increase circulating capital, and amid the systematic increase in wholesale and retail prices, enterprises were forced to work all last year with an acute shortage of circulating capital. Some people are saying that enterprises are probably not to blame for the fact that they were created to work by one set of laws and forced to work by others, but they did make very few attempts to seek their own additional sources of income to swell their circulating capital (by selling surplus equipment, cutting back the work force, etc). Moreover, the profits that enterprises made by increasing prices of their own output were not channeled into forming increased circulating capital but were mainly used via consumption funds.

Enterprises offset the material assets accumulated by the start of and during the implementation of liberalization against production costs at the old prices and not at prices current when they were used in production. The difference between the old and new prices was channeled not into forming circulating capital but was added to enterprise profits. There took shape as a result a kind of mechanism for the "self-consumption" of circulating capital.

Some sectors of industry saw a dramatic increase in wages, and wages were, moreover, linked less and less to the results of enterprises' production activity.

On the other hand, virtually all sectors saw an increase in the number of loss-making enterprises. For instance, almost one in two enterprises in the consumer services sphere is loss-making, while the figure is one in five in the state trade system.

In the coal industry losses are estimated at roughly R150 billion, which has made it necessary for the state to allocate R183.5 billion in subsidies via the system of settlement prices.

In 1992 almost all livestock farming, including milk, meat, cattle, sheep, and poultry production, was loss-making. Direct subsidies for livestock products totaled R162 billion, and compensation payments for energy resources reached R45 billion.

By the end of 1992 roughly 20 percent of all transportation enterprises were loss-making, with losses totaling roughly R60 billion. However, in September the average wage in the transport sector was R10,712, while in December this figure had risen to R21,262 (which is more than five times in excess of the computed subsistence minimum of R4,000).

Some 1,823 (39.8 percent) housing and municipal services enterprises are loss-making, with losses of roughly R30 billion.

Thus, compared with the rising prices of the raw materials, semimanufactures, and spare parts needed for the production process, the scale of enterprises' circulating capital has constantly declined.

As a result of all these factors nonpayments in the national economy reached R3.1 trillion by the end of the second quarter, according to revised figures, that is, a 78-fold increase since the beginning of the year.

Then came what I would call a tragic turning point in the course of the economic reform.

Coming under tremendous pressure from various political forces foretelling mass production stoppages, unemployment, famine, and even civil war, the government was forced to drastically increase the amount of credit channeled into the national economy. If you add to that the provision of credit for seasonal work (sowing, shipment of commodities to parts of the Far North, etc), the total credit provided for the national economy increased from R918 billion as of 1 April 1992 to R3.731 trillion as of 1 November 1992. The rate of growth of the money supply began to top 25 percent in the period June through September, whereas it had been 9-14 percent in the period January through May. The proportion of cash in the money supply increased, while the proportion of resources set aside for investment dropped.

For some time the increase in the issue of credit eased the acuteness of the payment crisis and reduced almost three-fold the wage arrears; however, by maintaining inefficient production units it thus sharply boosted the development of inflationary processes. The government's incorrect (albeit enforced) actions boiled down not to the fact that credit was extended to cover enterprises' nonpayments, but to the fact that the process of extending credit applied to all enterprises without exception, without employing the procedure of declaring loss-making enterprises bankrupt. We have the Supreme Soviet to "thank" for that. The Law "On Bankruptcy" was only adopted at the end of 1992 and only comes into force 1 March 1993. All of us—the government, people's deputies, leaders of territories, and enterprise directors—must realize or accept a single truism, which is that the crisis in the national economy is insuperable without real structural reorganization and without declaring bankrupt the backward inefficient production units. We must realize that a decline in production is inevitable and, in many sectors, even beneficial. (If, for instance, such a decline is linked with the demilitarization of the economy, adaptation to a new more rational price structure, the removal of inefficient production units, and abandonment of the production of costly but inefficient output.)

On the one hand, the collapse of the CEMA and Union markets and the disarmament process are drastically limiting the possibilities of selling the output produced, while, on the other, the process of price liberalization has revealed the profound structural disproportions that have accumulated over the years, the tremendous resource-intensiveness of many sectors, and the poor quality, unprofitability, or even negative added value at many enterprises.

The experience of 1992 has shown that the massive provision of credit for the economy since the second quarter only temporarily "damped" the problem of nonpayment, but slowed to an even greater extent the structural changes and the elimination of truly inefficient production units, while the problem of nonpayments has once again arisen in all its magnitude.

Continuing credit injections will bring Russia's economy to hyperinflation and then to total economic collapse and cause tremendous social casualties.

Even now the high level of inflation is primarily attacking savings and investments, as well as current consumption. This is nothing more than a tax that extends to all spheres of society's life. As for the social aspect, pensioners and personnel in the budget-funded sphere and agriculture are particularly affected.

There is one way out of this sorry experience. In order to albeit partially protect the population from the consequences of the economic reforms (and implement the reforms, as was said at the Seventh Congress of People's Deputies, "without impoverishing the people"), inefficient enterprises must not be supported!

The credit that the Central Bank provides the government must without fail be issued in the form of state securities. The government must distribute the allocated funds in the form of subsidies only for top-priority areas and strictly in accordance with the formulated program. The banking system must only be used to service these operations. Incidentally, one of the main reasons for the increase in nonpayments was the unjustifiably long time spent in processing payment documents. The banking system has demonstrated its inefficiency. What is more, the banks have no interest in speeding up transactions because they obtain income from enterprise money circulating in the payment system by using that money for the provision of short-term credit.

It is necessary to take a range of measures forthwith, on the one hand to provide banks with technical systems as quickly as possible and, on the other, to increase their responsibility for processing payments within standardized timeframes.

3. Foreign Economic Activity

Starting in the second half of 1992, the drop in export volumes gave way to growth, while reducing volumes of import purchases. But the increase in exports occurred mainly thanks to oil (66 million tonnes, an increase of 17 percent). Gas exports totaled 89 billion cubic meters (99 percent of the 1991 level). I would point out the steep

growth in exports of rolled ferrous metals and aluminum, accounted for by the considerable increase in deliveries of these commodities by regions and enterprises.

As in previous years, however, fuel and energy resources still remained the main source of freely convertible currency, with their share of **exports** increasing 6 percent over 1991 and standing at 55 percent.

On the results of 1992 as a whole, foreign trade commodity turnover is valued at $73 billion—23 percent less than 1991. Here exports totaled approximately $38 billion, and imports $35 billion.

The shifting of foreign economic priorities in favor of industrially developed countries (the share of this group of countries in the total commodity turnover stood at more than 60 percent) led to a situation in which the contract prices of the basic export commodities ended up below world prices, while the prices of purchased imported commodities were increased. The main causes of this phenomenon are as follows.

First, the breakup of the economic and political system of CEMA resulted in the destruction of a considerable number of coproduction and trade-economic ties with East European countries.

The share of the former CEMA countries in trade with Russia fell 43 percent and stood at 18 percent of the total volume of foreign trade commodity turnover.

It was a big mistake on the government's part that it tolerated that reduction, abandoned the system of multilateral transactions with the former CEMA member countries, and failed to arrange during 1992 mutually advantageous relations with East European states, for which exports to the Russian market, particularly exports of consumer goods, are traditional, while prices are below general world prices.

The reduction by 27 percent in the share of commodity turnover with developing countries is a similar mistake. The experience of the Russian president's official visit to India showed that the government had not utilized all the opportunities of clearing transactions with developing countries, or taken measures to expand the means and methods of foreign trade activity with those countries, since the purchase of imported commodities from them is also, in the majority of cases, more advantageous than from Western countries.

Second, the change in the prices of exports and imports is connected with the emergence in foreign markets of a significant number of new participants in foreign economic activity, and in the majority of cases they are quite unprepared for the necessary work with foreign partners. There has been an increase in unscrupulous domestic competition, which also affected the said change in prices.

Another serious problem for the foreign trade activity of Russia as a unified state was the desire of the leadership of individual republics within the Russian Federation and of certain regions and enterprises to secure privileges at any price in respect of regulating exports of commodities, paying customs duties, and compulsorily selling part of the currency proceeds. The granting of such privileges entails the danger of the disintegration of the single economic area and the customs territory of Russia, as well as a significant underreceipt of revenue into the state budget.

An approximate economic assessment of the exceptions granted by various decisions of the executive power in 1992 to the overall regime of foreign economic activity with regard only to exemption from paying export duties amounts to $2.6 billion, and $300 million for payment of import duties. (Here only those decisions that are liable to miscalculation [obschet] have been taken into account.)

Unfortunately, the existing statistical accountability does not provide for the gathering and processing of data on the efficient utilization of the privileges and advantages granted to organs of regional management and to enterprises and organizations, and the results of one-off checks locally, with an analysis of export and import prices and an assessment of the share of currency funds spent on purchasing food and consumer goods, give grounds for deeming the foreign economic activity of individual regions, enterprises, and organizations to be inefficient. Nevertheless, toward the end of 1992 the governments of republics within Russia, kray and oblast administrations, leaders of enterprises and organizations, and people's deputies at all levels stepped up pressure on the central government with a view to redistributing in their favor rights with regard to regulating foreign economic activity and reducing customs duties.

To be fair, it should be recognized that the large number of demands for various privileges to be granted with regard to foreign economic activity is also a result of such objective circumstances as the insufficiently reliable legislative base for the tariff regulation of foreign economic activity (the draft law on the customs tariff has only had its first reading) and the unexpected introduction of the export tariff and then the import tariff, which the subjects of economic management were unable to take into prior account in their economic activity. There is also the effect of the imperfect nature of the export and import tariff rates in connection with the complexity of determining them objectively owing to the instability of internal prices and the constant growth in internal expenditure on the production and transportation of export output.

Continuing the practice of numerous exceptions to the overall regime will lead to the virtual dismantling of the system of state regulation of foreign economic activity and to a loss of control to the detriment of the national interests of Russia's economic development. The granting of a preferential customs regime to vast territories on the scale of entire krays and oblasts and under

conditions when it is impossible to ensure proper customs control on the borders of such zones inevitably leads to serious violations of the law and large economic losses for the state.

The government must radically revise the procedure for issuing permits for privileges with a view to sharply reducing and subsequently ending them, and it must even today end the granting of privileges in the form of total exemption from payment of export and import duties for enterprises and organizations when implementing investment projects. In exceptional cases provision is to be made for such privileges to take the form of deferred payment of duties until such time as profits start to be made on the production of new output.

The Ministry of Finance must draw up a procedure for granting such deferments in the payment of duties and a mechanism for protecting their size from depreciation, as well as taking these privileges into account in the corresponding articles of the federal budget.

The government deems it possible to preserve in an unchanged form in 1993 the effect of the decisions adopted in 1992 on the privileges granted to enterprises and regions to resolve questions of the reconstruction and modernization of old enterprises and the creation of new export-oriented and import-substituting production facilities, as well as ensuring the normal functioning of sectors and stabilizing socioeconomic processes, since these decisions cover a period of several years.

Another, no less important problem is that of completing the formation of new trade and economic relations with the former union republics on the basis of the principles and norms adopted in the practice of international relations. The unregulated nature of these relations in 1992 resulted in the mass smuggling of energy sources, ferrous, nonferrous, and rare-earth metals, and other commodities out of Russia across the territories of former union republics.

Most of Russia's borders with other former republics of the Union remain "transparent"—which does not accord at all with the criterion of economic security and, in a number of cases, also does appreciable harm, which is compounded by the destruction of the "distant" borders of the former Union.

It must also be pointed out that in connection with the sharing out of the property of the former republics of the Union Russia has lost a whole number of very important seaports and transshipment bases (13 on the Black Sea and five on the Baltic), as well as airports and means of transport (Russia has been left with 55 percent of the total number of ships in the transport fleet and approximately 25 percent of the total tonnage of the USSR merchant marine, and at the same time Russia has lost practically the entire refrigerator and bulk carrier fleet and most of the tanker fleet). Communications and a number of specialized enterprises have also been lost in the sectors of transportation and petroleum machine building. This has a very adverse effect not only on foreign trade activity but also on the entire economy as a whole.

The government's work experience in 1992 showed that commodities must be exported to the CIS countries on whose exports quantitative restrictions (quotas) have been set, according to the same procedure as to countries in "distant foreign parts," i.e. on the basis of licenses of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and while observing the same norms of responsibility. This procedure was established as of 1 October 1992, and on 1 February 1993 the general procedure governing exports of strategically important raw material commodities through organizations registered at the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations was extended to exports of commodities to CIS states, and an export tariff was also introduced.

In shaping the trade regime with the republic states of the former USSR the Russian Federation Government pursues three main aims: 1) to preserve integration ties as far as possible; 2) to ensure this regime's compatibility with Russia's international commitments; 3) reliably to protect Russia's economic interests.

In accordance with these aims, we have now completed, in the main, the shaping of a free-trade regime which enables us to completely lift the trade barriers to imports and to apply export restrictions (tariffs and quotas) within sensible limits. At the same time the mutual exchange of key output in agreed and balanced volumes on the basis of world prices is also exempt from export duties. Treaties providing for such a regime have now been concluded with Belarus, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenia, Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan, and Armenia. It is proposed to introduce a similar regime also with Ukraine in the first half of 1993.

A trade regime has not yet been established with Moldova, Georgia, and Tajikistan.

As regards the Baltic republics, it is expedient to build trade relations with them on the standard principle of most-favored-nation status, as with any third countries.

4. Privatization

The Russian Government's main task in 1992 was to create a legal and organizational mechanism for the privatization of state and municipal enterprises and to develop privatization on this basis with the participation of broad sections of the population.

Despite numerous problems (of both a political and an organizational-methods nature), the shaping of the normative-legal base of privatization had been practically completed by October 1992.

Within the framework of the created mechanism and on the basis of the Russian president's well-known Edict No. 721, the State Committee for the Management of State Property and territorial property management

committees have adopted decisions on the transformation into open-type joint-stock companies of 5,613 enterprises, including:

—2,520 major enterprises among those subject to compulsory share flotation;

—547 structural subdivisions being transformed into joint-stock companies as a result of commercialization.

In the process of "small-scale privatization" 36 percent of retail-trade enterprises, 34.5 percent of wholesale-trade enterprises, 21.7 percent of public catering enterprises, and 39.8 percent of domestic services enterprises have been transferred to private hands by means of selling enterprises and their property by competitive tender and at auctions.

On the whole, of the 250,000 state and municipal enterprises that existed in Russia at the beginning of 1992, 46,900 enterprises, or 18.7 percent, were privatized as a result of implementing the State Privatization Program for 1992. Of these, 17.5 percent were in federal ownership, 27.0 percent in republic ownership, 8.4 percent in kray and oblast ownership, and 36.2 percent in municipal ownership.

The proceeds from sales of state and municipal enterprises in 1992 totaled R157 billion, of which R118 billion was channeled into the federal budget.

Privatization checks were issued to Russia's citizens as of 1 October 1992. The process of issuing checks was completed 31 January 1993. Some 96 percent of Russian citizens received privatization checks.

More than 300 investment funds have already been set up, giving citizens additional opportunities to participate in the privatization process. As a consequence of the processes of privatizing state property and floating shares in enterprises, the number of working people in the state sector fell during the year by more than 7.8 million.

At the same time the economic reform has helped to increase the number of people employed in the new economic structures to approximately 16 million, including an increase of 1.5 million in the private enterprise sector.

All this makes it possible to assess 1992 as the first year of large-scale privatization in Russia. But the pace of privatization is lagging considerably behind the desired speed of this process determined by the progress of the economic reform.

Thus, the list of defense enterprises being excluded from the privatization process is constantly being extended under pressure from sectoral organs of management. The targets of the State Privatization Program for 1992 with regard to "small-scale privatization" have been underfulfilled in Russia by an average factor of 1.5, mainly owing to the desire of local organs of power and management to keep a considerable proportion of trade under their own control.

The most important shortcoming in the government's work in the privatization sphere is its poor opposition to the desire of sectoral organs of management and the industrial lobby to preserve nonmarket—to put it mildly (but, in principle, command)—methods of managing enterprises and to exclude a considerable proportion of enterprise property from the privatization process by assigning controlling packages of shares to federal ownership. Since the majority of these enterprises are among the largest in the sectors, the value of the property excluded from privatization could exceed 50 percent of the value of these sectors' enterprises.

A reduction in the mass of property involved in the privatization process will lead, and is already leading, to a lowering of the exchange value of the privatization check (and, thus, to the population's growing discontent). This is eliciting justified protests from territorial organs of power—particularly on those territories where most state property is concentrated in enterprises of the fuel and energy complex and the military-industrial complex: above all, in the Urals, Siberia, and the Far East.

The Russian Government's chief tasks in 1993, which were reflected in the draft State Privatization Program for 1993 approved by the Russian Federation Government, are:

1) to expand the volumes of privatized property by cardinally reducing the groups of enterprises for which particular restrictions on privatization have been provided;

2) to decentralize and "debureaucratize" the process of adopting privatization decisions on the basis of transferring this right to territorial property management committees;

3) to improve the mechanisms of "check" privatization and, above all, the procedures for holding specialized check auctions which ensure that small investors (ordinary citizens) take priority when acquiring shares.

I would like the Supreme Soviet, which, unfortunately, has not yet examined the Privatization Program for 1993, to share this viewpoint of the government's.

5. The Social-Labor Sphere

One of the government's chief mistakes was the fact that at the initial stage of radical economic transformations the main emphasis was placed on the financial recovery and macroeconomic stabilization of the national economy. Social issues, despite certain preventive measures, took a back seat. This was bound to lead to

considerable social costs. But the fall in the living standard of the majority of the population and the deterioration of the state of affairs in the social sphere sectors proved to be deeper and more protracted than expected.

One defect of the social measures was the fact that social support funds were often haphazardly channeled and that often there was no link with the level of average per capita income differentiated by regions and categories of citizens, which led to a reduction in their effectiveness. There was a failure to ensure the proper collaboration between the leaders at federal, regional, and local levels on the decisions being made, taking into account the timeframe and the size of available resources.

The most serioues problem is the significant decline in the living standard of the majority of the population. Consumer prices increased 26 times over on average during the year, but monetary incomes increased approximately 10-fold and pay 12-fold on average.

In 1992 as a whole consumer prices rose at more than twice the rate of nominal monetary incomes.

On the other hand, in many cases there was an unwarranted increase in the differentiation of pay by sector, by category of working people, and by territory. The pay of the 10 percent highest paid was apropximately five times greater than that of the poorest before 1991; in March 1992 it was 11 times greater, and in September it was 16 times greater. The pay gulf between the budget- and nonbudget-funded spheres increased. It was not until December 1992, with the introduction of the single wage rate distribution, that the situation was somewhat eased. But the growth of inflationary processes, leading to the unregulated growth of pay in the nonbudget-funded sector, makes the solution of this task considerably more difficult.

For example, the average pay of working people in the petroleum-refining industry increased 29 times over in December 1992 compared with December 1991, three points above the average increase in prices (26 times), and constitutes R45,335.

The average pay of working people in the oil-extraction industry is R53,215 and working people at gas-extraction enterprises get R39,700, not counting northern and regional coefficients (R74,674, counting all coefficients); working people in nonferrous metallurgy get R33,082.

They get only R12,974 in machine building and metal working; R13,375 in light industry; R20,428 in construction; R9,695 in public health; R11,233 in public education, and only R7,740 in cultural institutions.

The number of poor people has increased considerably. In terms of accountable incomes around one-third of the population earns less than the living wage, which, it is calculated, was around **R4,000 per person in December.** The increase in the number of poor people goes hand in hand with the process of the erosion of the "middle class," which is the social base of stability in all countries.

The decline in real incomes resulted in a deterioration in the structure of consumption: The proportion of expenditure on food increased by 11 points. But the consumption of meat, fish, milk, sugar, confectionery, and fruit fell by 13-19 percent.

Despite the considerable increase in prices, **the situation on the consumer market remains unstable.** Some goods and food are in short supply in many regions, and trade stocks are no greater than they were last year. Inflationary expectations and the **absence of mechanisms for the indexation of the population's savings** are having a destabilizing effect on the consumer market and on increasing prices.

Financial support for enterprises in 1992 and the failure to apply the bankruptcy procedure held back the process of growing **unemployment.** But there was a reduction in the number of vacancies and for the first time in recent years available manpower in 1992 exceeded the demand. By the end of the year the number of registered unemployed people was around 600,000, that is, still as yet a natural "frictional" unemployment not exceeding 1 percent of the number of people employed.

It must be borne in mind that more than one-half of the unemployed have higher or secondary specialized education. Over 70 percent of the total number of unemployed are women and nearly one-third are young people aged between 16 and 29.

But in some territories the situation is more alarming. The largest number of unemployed as a proportion of the able-bodied population is in **Yaroslavl** (2.4 percent), Pskov (2.1 percent), Ivanovo (1.9 percent), and Kostroma (1.9 percent) Oblasts, and the Republic of Dagestan (1.9 percent). The leaders in terms of the total number of registered unemployed are St. Petersburg (41,300), Moscow Oblast (28,800), and Moscow (23,000).

It must be said that there are around 1 million people who do not want to work at all and acquire their means of existence from unregistered commercial activities or other, sometimes even criminal means, which is having a very adverse effect on the general crime situation in Russia.

Among the measures carried out by the Russian Government to ease the situation in the social sphere one should note first and foremost the periodic review of minimum pay, pensions, benefits, and wage rates and salaries of working people in the budget-funded sphere and the introduction of a single wage rate distribution for this sphere.

Measures at the federal level were supplemented by various measures carried out in the regions, in particular

relating to children, invalids, and low-income families. Funds for the social support of the population were set up for this purpose.

All this to some extent contributed to a lessening of social-labor conflicts. But the situation deteriorated throughout the year, and problems piled up in the social sphere.

Summing up 1992, one should note that the situation in the social sphere is now very different from the way it was a year ago. The potential for achieving financial stabilization by limiting the incomes of the population and of social sphere sectors is basically exhausted. Moreover, the continuation of the reforms in a relatively calm situation presupposes pretty wide social support for them. This year, 1993, is to be a year of transition from passive measures of social protection to economically active regulators of living standard stability and the achievement of a secure social situation on that basis.

In continuing the transformations it has started in the economy, the government must strengthen the social content of the transformations, if necessary even by extending somewhat the period for achieving financial stabilization and overcoming the budget deficit. So the social issues of the reform come to the forefront and the solution of the problems facing us extends far beyond the framework of social policy per se, becoming an important element in general economic policy.

The Russian Federation Government is now faced with the very complex task of walking a razor's edge: Implementing all the social support measures, halting the production decline in priority sectors, and supporting agricultural production, while avoiding the plunge into hyperinflation in so doing.

This task is made even more difficult in connection with the decisions of the Seventh Congress of Russian Federation Deputies. As is known, while confirming the strategic course of transition to a market economy, the congress committed the government to making "substantial adjustments to the economic reform program and the tactics for conducting it, giving the reform a social dimension and strengthening the state's role in the process of transformations."

The seventh congress decree "On the course of the economic reform in the Russian Federation" enumerates practically all the possible types of indexation and compensation which the government and Supreme Soviet must implement immediately. For instance, the RSFSR Law "On indexation of citizens' incomes and savings in the RSFSR" is to be implemented as of 1993; a program of compensation for people's savings deposits has been elaborated; a mechanism for reviving state enterprises' circulating capital has been elaborated; and parity pricing conditions are proposed for the agrarian sector, as well as the revival from the first quarter of 1992 of the indexation of prices of agricultural products, taking into account the prices index, and of prices of industrial products and services used by the countryside, with compensation from the budget for agricultural producers for losses of revenue from prices. Moreover, the criterion of the population's minimum living standard is to be established and is to be implemented in draft laws now being elaborated.

But while setting forth demands on the protection of the population, state enterprises, and the agrarian sector against inflation, the decree part of the congress document says nothing at all about inflation itself or about the ways and means of preventing it.

The results of the socioeconomic development of the Russian Federation in 1992 clearly indicate that the principal, priority task in 1993 is to curb inflation. The most effective way of combating inflation is an all-around reduction in expenditure, whereas the congress decree, on the contrary, presupposes a sharp increase. It is perfectly clear that the future implementation of the economic reform is impossible without concerted actions by the government, Supreme Soviet, and Russian Central Bank. One can only welcome all the round tables and other measures aimed at searching for accord among the branches of authority.

But unless a moratorium, backed up by a special Supreme Soviet decree, is imposed on the legislative and executive authorities' pro-inflationary actions for at least six months, there may be an abrupt deviation from the chosen strategic course of political and economic reforms and democratic transformations in the Russian Federation.

The executive authority's actions to ensure support for the reform course through the people's expression of their will, in accordance with the decision of the Seventh Congress of Russian People's Deputies, are justified in this case.

Switching to the tasks for 1993, it is necessary to examine certain possible options for the economic policy of the Russian Federation Government and Russian Federation Central Bank.

The proposed scenario forecast is based on the existing correlations between the main macroeconomic indicators.

Given that the most important goals of the Russian Federation government's economic policy in 1993 are:

—achieving macroeconomic stabilization as a result of a substantial drop in inflation;

—slowing the rate of production decline in priority spheres;

—maintaining the living standard of the majority of the Russian Federation population;

—strengthening the foreign economic position;

—preparing conditions for stable economic growth,

the preferred scenario from the viewpoint of the economic reform, but the most difficult to implement, is scenario number one. Analysis shows that this is the only economic policy scenario which can achieve the basic parameters of macroeconomic stabilization, reduce the budget deficit to 5 percent of GDP, or R2.3 trillion, keep the rate of growth of prices to 300 percent per year, reduce the monthly rate of increase to 3-5 percent by the end of the year, and keep the ruble's hard currency rate at an acceptable level. Only this development scenario can ensure long-term development prospects, the start of the real implementation of the economy's restructuring, and the revival of investment activity by the end of the year, which will serve as the foundation for subsequent economic growth.

But the social cost of this scenario is quite high. In view of the decline in production in nonpriority spheres of the national economy, unemployment could reach 6-8 percent of the able-bodied population (according to the Russian Labor Ministry, the socially permissible level of unemployment in 1993 should not exceed 8 percent).

To keep the growth of unemployment at this level use will have to be made of economic and administrative measures geared to strict observance of the demands of the Law on Bankruptcy in relation to the number of people laid off at bankrupt enterprises. In the future, in a period of relative economic and financial stabilization and the deployment of a sufficient number of investment programs, aspects of the administrative curbs on unemployment could be relaxed.

The government will have to **step up monitoring of the development of the situation on the labor market** and introduce monthly statistics on the situation in regional labor markets.

With the March 1993 entry into force of the Law on Bankruptcy it is necessary to suspend for 1993 point 4 of Article 7 of the Russian Federation Law "On the employment of the Russian Federation population" concerning the compulsory financing of measures and deferment of mass dismissals (except in cases due to bankruptcy). It will have to be laid down that massive cuts in the work force in excess of 8 percent can be made only with the permission of local administrative organs at the request of labor and employment organs.

It is clear that part of the Employment Fund will have to be used to form a system of **independent employment** of the population, above all in the sphere of small business, and a procedure will have to be established for creating paid public work in some territories in the municipal sector, public health, trade, consumer services, and other sectors.

The first scenario will require of the government the utmost principledness and an uncompromising and tough approach. It is this scenario that will cause the greatest political pressure on the part of the majority of social groups, individual ministries and departments, certain regions, political movements, and some enterprises.

When implementing a moderately inflationary policy (scenario two) the pace of growth of the money supply is kept within 12-15 percent a month, which corresponds to the level of the first five months of 1992.

This economic policy option will also entail a considerable curtailment of production (GDP at 88 percent of the 1992 level) and a perceptible rise in unemployment (to 7 percent of the work force). In that event the annualized rate of price rises will fall to a factor of 6.9, and by the end of the year will be 10-12 percent a month.

The budget deficit will be around 10 percent of GDP or more than R9 trillion, but the currency exchange rate will fall several times. The government's efforts to revive business activity and boost investments will be blocked by the persisting uncertainty and the absence of obvious incentives to and criteria of economic growth.

The easiest to implement but the hardest in terms of its socioeconomic consequences is scenario three, in which a moderate policy is implemented to the accompaniment of intensive credit emission and massive nontargeted support for production volumes. The money supply growth rate remains at the level established in July to December 1992—25 percent a month. Production volumes are virtually maintained (GDP at 94 percent of the 1992 figure) and there is no sharp rise in unemployment (4 percent of the work force by the end of 1993). However, the price to be paid for that is a 15-percent federal budget deficit, or about R33 trillion, a more than 15-fold increase in prices, and a fall in the exchange rate of the ruble. The price growth rate in December 1993 will remain at a level of 25 percent a month. None of the long-term development programs, and above all the problems of investments and savings, will be resolved.

The main concrete measures are listed in the "Plan of Actions of the Russian Federation Government for the Implementation of the Economic Reform in 1993" which has been issued to you. This plan has been elaborated in principle in accordance with economic policy option number one for 1993 and contains 97 measures set out in 11 sections. The explanatory memorandum to the draft plan sets out the main areas of the government's activity in each section, stemming from the main aims of reducing inflation, halting the decline in production in the priority spheres, improving people's living standards, extensive privatization, and the creation of conditions for further stable economic growth.

When examining this plan it must be borne in mind that in accordance with Russian Federation Government decree no. 32 dated 18 January 1993 a set of measures for the implementation of the Seventh Congress of Russian People's Deputies decree "On the course of the economic reform in the Russian Federation," which contains 72 measures of a more urgent character designed for implementation mainly in the first quarter

of this year, has been approved and sent to the Supreme Soviet. In addition, as a legislative initiative on the part of the Russian Federation president the Supreme Soviet has been sent a List of Legislative Acts whose adoption is essential to the further implementation of the economic reform. The examination of all the aforementioned documents as a package gives a full picture of the nature and thrust of the government's actions in 1993.

Gerashchenko, Bankers Oppose Subordination to Government

LD1602220593 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 16 Feb 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Central Bank Chairman Viktor Gerashchenko believes that inflation in Russia exceeded 2,000 per cent last year. Now hyperinflation has been named as the main threat to the Russian economy and the entire policy of reforms. Only the coordinated efforts of the government, the Supreme Soviet, and the banks can stop hyperinflation, but it looks as if so far there is no plan for such interaction. Today Viktor Gerashchenko described as ridiculous proposals to introduce double subordination of the Central Bank to the government and the Supreme Soviet. For its part, the Central Bank is asking the parliament to change the law on banks and make the Savings Bank of Russia subordinate to it. On the other hand, Pavel Zhikharev, president of the Savings Bank, claims in IZVESTIYA today that a re-examination of the law would seriously damage trust in the irreversible nature of the policy of reforms and would ruin the banking system in the country.

Statements by the two respected Russian bankers suggest an idea that present hyperinflation in Russia is not so much the consequence of granting credits last year, but, rather, retribution for the absence of a nationwide credit policy.

Yeltsin Issues Decree on Privatization Vouchers

LD1502170893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1638 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Text] Moscow February 15 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin endorsed by its decree a resolution on the rules for privatisation vouchers circulation and use.

The decree signed on February 12 entitles the Russian State Property Management Committee with explaining the application of this resolution which defines how these cheques will be circulated and used in cash and non-cash settlements, describes the functions of depositories and regional centres ensuring the collection and storage of cheques.

The committee was charged with creating regional centres and defining together with the Finance Ministry and interested agencies the procedure, size and sources of financing this work.

Petrov Discusses Economic Stabilization

PM1702094793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Feb 93 First Edition p 2

[Interview with State Investment Corporation Chairman Yuriy Petrov by Voldemar Koreshkov on 5 February; place not given: "Yuriy Petrov: Economic Stabilization Will Help To Resolve Remaining Problems"—first two paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] The Russian Federation president's edict "On establishing a state investment corporation," which was published yesterday, was officially drawn up 5 February.

On the same day Yuriy Petrov, who until recently was working as director of the president's administration and has now been appointed chairman of the corporation, gave an interview to ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA.

[Koreshkov] Today you are meeting with ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in your new position.

[Petrov] I also had good relations with ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA before. I think our relations will continue to be good in future as well. In order to forestall misunderstandings, I would like to say that this switch to a new job took place on my own initiative. I asked the president to give me the chance to work for the good of Russia in another capacity and I am quite honestly pleased with the decision that has been made. The president has tasked me with setting up and heading the State Investment Corporation. Without this it will be hard to look forward to sufficiently rapid structural reconstruction of a people-oriented economy.

The corporation is not an organ of state administration, but rather an instrument for implementing state investment policy. Being one of a number of similar organizations and foundations, it is designed to execute specific functions in the investment sphere.

Comments have already been voiced that the corporation may compete, for example, with the Russian Agency for International Cooperation and Development and other institutions of this sort. Our main credo is cooperation. At the same time we do not denigrate healthy competition—all this can only boost the Russian economy.

[Koreshkov] Will this be an international corporation or a domestic Russian one?

[Petrov] For the time being we are talking about investments in Russia. But we are not ruling out (we have enshrined it in the incorporating documents) that the corporation will get the chance to make investments abroad as well.

By effecting this linking role between the government and economic entities, the corporation will act as the founder of a number of open-type joint-stock companies. We have not ruled out foreign founders from getting involved in it.

[Koreshkov] How will the initial incorporation funds be formed?

[Petrov] Under a presidential edict, the government has been tasked with transferring property worth $1 billion to the corporation's fund; this will be used as security, mainly to insure foreign investors against political risks. I want to stress this in particular, because economic and inflationary risks are insured separately. It is also planned to allocate $50 million and 200 billion rubles and transfer a number of items of real estate. We hope to obtain these assets in the very near future. I am already receiving a mass of proposals for cooperating in and financing specific projects.

We have been given the right to get involved in foreign economic and commercial activity. We will hold lotteries and seek other sources of attracting funds and making our own profit. In a word, our corporation will not be working out of the state budget, but on the principles of self-development and cost recovery.

[Koreshkov] Do you envisage setting up your own banks?

[Petrov] The corporation's task is to set up all the necessary institutions for galvanizing the investment process. There should be a bank, of course, but that does not mean that we will necessarily set up our own. We could either act as founders or go to one of the currently existing banks.

I think that in order to implement any major project it will be possible to establish a consortium of banks.

We will of course set up our own research center as well. Its task will be to organize project appraisals, methodological studies, marketing, and so forth. We intend to organize cadre training, of course, making active use of the currently existing systems of higher and other educational institutions.

[Koreshkov] A considerable number of different foundations, many of which are engaged in "auto-parasitism," so to speak, by spending all their incorporation funds on staff wages, are currently in operation. What can Russians realistically expect in the way of practical activity from the corporation you head?

[Petrov] Let me state quite clearly: We do not intend to hand out to all comers the assets which the government is allocating to us. We realize that these funds belong to the taxpayers, and we must ensure that they are returned as quickly as possible by saturating the market with food and various goods.

Each of the projects that are being implemented will have both an economic and a social charge. That is to say the projects will be profitable for the population and the state. These include conversion and the development of agricultural and primarily the processing sectors of industry.

[Koreshkov] How did the president react to the establishment of such a powerful corporation?

[Petrov] In many ways this was his idea. It is true that we initially talked about an investment fund. But during the process of concrete elaboration we came to the conclusion that it would be expedient to set up a corporation.

The president believes that the corporation should encourage the implementation of economic reforms.

That is its main task and purpose. He has confirmed his full support for it, but at the same time warned me that I am personally responsible for the corporation's affairs.

[Koreshkov] Bearing in mind your considerable political experience, what, I would like to know, is your opinion of the all-Russia referendum scheduled for 11 April?

[Petrov] This is a complex and many-sided question. The postponement of the referendum has not been ruled out. In order not to inflame the passions in society that will inevitably occur during the preparation for the referendum, I would nevertheless not exclude any other forms and ways of seeking consensus between all social and political forces.

I think that time and opportunities have not yet been exhausted.

[Koreshkov] One last thing. What would you like to say about the way recent events have developed?

[Petrov] I think that every politician and every citizen should calmly and in an considered manner evaluate his remarks, and not hurry to draw rash conclusions, least of all make mutual accusations.

Considered action and calm conduct, as well as a search for ways to get out of the complex situation in which Russia finds itself, are the urgent tasks currently facing everyone. I am talking about the entire economic and political situation. If we manage to stabilize the economy, many of our current problems which we regard as purely political will be ironed out or simply fall away. Today the main thing is to work persistently at ways to overcome as quickly as possible the economic difficulties which literally hold Russia in a vice. And as soon as we start to make progress, the easier it will be for us to resolve all remaining problems.

In moving toward the referendum and participating in it, every citizen will not only assess how events are developing in political, economic, and social life, but will also contribute a fraction of his own personal responsibility.

Defense Industry Presents Export Production Scheme

MK1602094493 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 13 Feb 93 p 2

[Oleg Petrovskiy article: "Defense Industry Leaders Outline Concept of Financial-Industrial Groups"]

[Text] Aleksey Shulunov, president of the Defense Enterprises League, addressing a session of the Russian government's Industrial Policy Council on 12 February, officially presented for the first time a program for reorganizing the Russian economy by creating large financial-industrial groups oriented toward export production. Observers point out that the program was presented only in general outline, and the mechanism for implementing it was not described. Meanwhile, four holding companies that are being set up in line with this program have already applied for registration.

The Industrial Policy Council was founded in accordance with Russian President Boris Yeltsin's edict of 30 September 1992. It has the status of a public organization that does not fall under the regulations applying to government establishments. One of the council's primary tasks is to provide an expert appraisal of various government programs. Its 31 members were approved by a Russian Government decree of 16 November 1992, and it is headed by Vladimir Kadannikov, general director of the AvtoVAZ production association.

The overall concept of creating financial-industrial groups, which consists of merging, by directive, industrial enterprises in various sectors manufacturing goods that are competitive in the world market, was first officially presented to the council by Aleksey Shalunov, president of the League of Defense Enterprises. The program took 10 months to draw up, and its authors' views were substantially influenced by their working contacts with the directors of large holding companies in Southeast Asia and the United States, in particular the South Korean Daewoo concern.

One of the masterminds behind the concept, Igor Alekseyev, a League of Defense Enterprises expert, told the council session about the options for financing these groups. According to Alekseyev, one of the main problems in implementing the program could be the reluctance of commercial banks to do business with industrial enterprises. Alekseyev pointed out that even if the industrial holding companies set up their own banks to finance themselves, it was highly likely that difficulties would arise. After accumulating a certain amount of money, the bank could return the group's share of its startup capital and then try to leave the holding structure. Another problem is Anatoliy Chubays' uncertain position regarding the transfer by the State Property Committee of mortgages on the property of enterprises in a financial-industrial group to the group's board of directors.

Aleksey Shalunov believes that a government decision is required on making mergers of enterprises from completely different economic sectors, but arranging them on the principle of mixing profitable enterprises with ones that are unprofitable, but have good prospects for the future. For example, one group could incorporate a liquor distillery and a microchip manufacturer. This, according to Shalunov, would enable unprofitable enterprises to receive financial support with a view to modernizing their production or if the market situation changes.

At the same time, observers point out that the four industrial groups that have been structurally formed now—Antey, IL, Yak, and Su—are built on the production principle and oriented toward fabrication of the same type of product.

Military Issues

Air Force Commander on Problems, Combat Power

LD1602173293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1715 GMT 16 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow February 16 TASS—The Russian Air Force has two pilots for each single-seat aircraft, since several thousands pilots from former Soviet republics have joined the Russian Air Force, Russian Air Force commander-in-chief Air Force Colonel-General Petr Deinekin told ITAR-TASS today.

Speaking on the formation of the Russian Air Force and bringing it in correspondence with the concept of building the Russian armed forces, Deinekin said a crew or a pilot, who have a higher professional level, will pilot each efficient aircraft in this situation.

The lowering of aviation kerosene supplies is very painful for the Air Force, which has to decrease the annual flight time to 40 hours for front aviation pilots, 80 - for long-range aviation pilots and 150 for military-cargo aviation pilots.

The situation is complicated by the breaking of many relations on supplies of spares and servicemen' equipment. There is a sharpest deficit of soldiers, as the recruitment for active military service is extremely difficult.

Despite the current difficulties, the Russian Air Force preserves high combat power, he said. the aero-industrial complex has created fourth generation aircraft, including famous Su-25 attack plane, MiG-29 close combat fighter and world-known Su-27 long-range fighter.

The front bombing aviation is equipped with Su-24 aircraft, and long-range aviation has Tu-22m and Tu-95m's. There are also Il-87 tanker-aircraft and several hundreds of Il-76 in the military-cargo aviation.

Besides, in the words of Deinekin, the Air Force is the only Russian owner of heavy Ruslan An-124 aircraft capable of reaching any area with paratroopers on board.

Deinekin said a long-range cruise missile has been recently launched from the new Tu-160 aircraft when transported from the plant to the base.

Speaking of strategic bombers, the general noted in fulfillment of the START-II Treaty they will be modified to carry high-precision conventional arms. There are also good designs of new planes, which correspond to world standards.

Grachev Issues Order on Servicemen's Status Law

PM1602170793 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 Feb 93 p 1

[Colonel of Justice Vyacheslav Sototskiy report under the "From Our Information Office" rubric: "Russian Defense Minister Takes Measures To Implement Russian Federation Law 'On the Status of Servicemen'"]

[Text] Moscow—Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian Federation defense minister, has issued an order instructing officials to organize the explanation and execution of the Russian Federation Law "On the Status of Servicemen" in armies and military administration organs.

The order pays special attention to implementing the measures adopted by the state to improve the material situation of and ensure real legal and social protection for servicemen, persons discharged from military service, and members of their families. The defense minister has given instructions that a plan containing specific measures to implement the law in the Army and Navy be formulated.

TV Shows Government Communication Troops' Activity

LD1502204993 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 15 Feb 93

[By correspondent A. Ukhov; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] Today is the 50th anniversary of the government communications troops of the Federal Agency for Government Communication and Information under the Russian president. For the first time ever, television journalists are reporting from the central separate field unit of the government communications troops.

[Ukhov] We know nothing about these troops, or at least very little. I will tell you straight away: Special communications have nothing to do with vertushkas [military slang for revolving antennas], nor with tapping telephone lines. The main task of the government communications workers, including this center, is to provide communications for the top leadership of the country and the army from any point on the globe—and to provide it with all possible speed and fully guaranteed security. The communications operators have assured me that there have been no cases when their messages were decoded, not even during the war.

By the way, the codes are being devised at the Academy of Cryptography. The troops currently have the equipment, designed by Russian scientists and experts, which makes it possible to code information being transmitted to a level of 10 raised to the 100th power. I will give you an example, to make this more tangible: It would take a most modern, super-powerful computer about 50 years to decode such a message.

The troops are equipped with tropospheric, radio, wire and, of course, space—or satellite, as it is usually called—communications facilities. For example, this tropospheric system R- 412 is ready for work 50 minutes after it is brought to a new location. Its guaranteed range of communication is about 200 km.

The Russian parliament is currently completing its work on preparing for a second reading a draft law on the federal bodies of government communications and information.

Supreme Soviet

Khasbulatov Meets With Richard Nixon 16 Feb

LD1602155793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1534 GMT 16 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Maria Kuzmenkova]

[Text] Moscow February 16 TASS—Russian Parliamentary Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov met with ex-President of the United States Richard Nixon on Tuesday [16 February].

Khasbulatov said Russia which has shrugged off the fetters of the semi-dictatorial Communist regime may be swept by a new, neo-Communist, dictatorship.

He believes this can be avoided through strengthening the principles of parliamentarism. He said the Russian Parliament has adopted over 700 laws over the past two years, thus creating a firm legal foundation for reforms in the country.

Nixon praised Russia's democratic gains and stressed that he has always been a supporter of large-scale and efficient assistance to Russian reforms. He added, however, that the U.S. Administration's hesitations are caused by the political instability in Russia.

Nixon expressed the hope that President Boris Yeltsin and the Russian lawmakers will find a possibility of joint work and agreed that a "shock therapy" policy which worked wonders in Poland has failed in Russia.

Nixon voiced concern about the position of the Russian minority in Latvia, adding that he told Latvian leaders during his visit to Riga that if this problem comes out of control, it may seriously hamper relations between the U.S. and Latvia.

Details of Talks Reported

LD1602231493

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 2047 GMT on 16 February carries a 12-minute report by correspondent Yelena Ozrina reviewing today's work in Supreme Soviet committees and commissions. She focuses on the work of the Committee on the Media, Liaison with Public Organizations and the Study of Public Opinion, and its discussion of a draft decision on economic support for newspapers and periodicals in the Russian Federation. Her report also includes an interview with people's deputy V.N. Lysenko on aspects of the draft law on political parties, which is also being discussed by this committee.

Yelena Ozrina continues her report by saying that a meeting took place in Russia's House of the Soviets today between Ruslan Imranovich Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, and Richard Nixon, the 37th President of the United States. The meeting was held in the Gold Hall of the Russian Supreme Soviet building. The accompanying video shows Nixon shaking hands with Ozrina and other guests, and then Khasbulatov entering the room and approaching Nixon to shake hands. Nixon, speaking in English, with translation supplied by a Russian interpreter, says: "Mr. Chairman, I'm very happy to meet you. As one who used to serve in the House and the Senate, I always respect the speaker. I've been in both practices. I know that you are a very strong speaker. Everybody agrees on that." The accompanying video shows Nixon and guests and Khasbulatov and guests seated opposite each other at tables with Russian and American flags in the middle.

Khasbulatov responds: "I have to say that the traditions of parliamentarism do not relate to the strong side of Russian history. This is indeed the weakest side of our state, although the Russian State has existed for over 1,000 years. And, frankly speaking, today's clashes and differences, which are evident and clear, have been somewhat exaggerated, but they lie in the very fact that our 1,000 years of history have been a history of different regimes."

Committee Chairman Critical of Yugoslavia Report

OW1602145193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1418 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Parliamentary Committee on International and Foreign Economic Relations Chairman Yevgeniy Ambartsumov has told an Interfax correspondent that he was deeply disturbed by Interfax's reporting of Friday's [12 February] parliamentary debate on the Yugoslav crisis.

He said that the reports gave the impression that a draft resolution on the former Yugoslavia written by a single deputy, Vladimir Isakov, was the work of his committee or was officially advanced by an entire faction.

Ambartsumov emphasized that the committee he heads prepared a parliamentary draft address to the parliaments of the republics of the former Yugoslavia and the world community. The document, which the parliamentarian believes may be adopted by parliament "with, at most, some unimportant changes," contains an appeal to support the peaceful initiatives of the Vance-Owen plan. The bill, by contrast, opined Ambartsumov, "used confrontational and unacceptable phrasing."

He noted that the advancement of alternative proposals was what he called a routine thing in parliament. He added, however, that, first, no one rejected the committee's draft appeal (it was simply removed from the agenda), and, second, Deputy Isakov's proposal was not even put to vote.

"I have to make this point clear because consumers of information in this country and abroad may get the impression that most of the Russian deputies would like to undermine the ongoing negotiation process," said Ambartsumov. The Russian parliament is inclined to soften sanctions against Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and favors sanctions against the parties which are responsibile for the escalation of combat operations, he said. However, the "tone" is extremely important in this case as one might get the impression that the Russian parliament is spurring confrontation and is trying to spoil normal relations in the world, he said.

Interfax feels it necessary to emphasize that not a single issue held information on a draft resolution on the former Yugoslavia prepared by the parliamentary committee on international affairs and foreign economic relations.

On Monday an Interfax item informed that the draft resolution was prepared by the parliamentary bloc Rossiya. This conclusion was based on the fact that the draft was signed by the coordinators of the Rossia bloc, Vladimir Isakov and Nikolay Pavlov. According to usual practice, if a draft resolution for parliament is proposed by only one deputy, then the proposal is submitted on the deputy's official stationary.

Unfortunately, for technical reasons on Friday, when the agency distributed the material with the excerpt of the draft resolution, it was not properly underscored that the draft appeal was developed by the Committee for International Affairs and Foreign Economic Relations. This document, which received a high grade from the Russian Foreign Ministry, contains an appeal to all fighting sides in Bosnia and Hercegovina to support the Vance-Owen plan. The draft also notes that it would be worthwhile for the Russian Government to propose that the UN Security Council introduce sanctions against Croatia and loosen sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro.

With regard to what opinions on the Yugoslavian issue are predominant in parliament, this will probably be

finally learned on Thursday. By this time, according to a proposal by the deputy chairman of parliament, Yuriy Voronin, efforts to merge the draft resolution and the draft appeal into one document should be completed, in order to create a document which would be acceptable to the majority of legislators.

Khasbulatov Meets With Arab Ambassadors

PM1602115993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Feb 93 First Edition p 7

[RIA report under the "Contacts" rubric: "Meeting with Arab Envoys"]

[Text] The chairman of the Russian parliament met with ambassadors and heads of missions from Arab countries 9 February. Ruslan Khasbulatov described the scientific and practical conference entitled "Russia and the Arab World: Problems and Prospects of Business Cooperation", which is scheduled for May, as a "major incentive" for the deepening and development of mutually beneficial cooperation between Arab countries and the Russian Federation.

Khasbulatov informed the diplomats that a national organizational committee for the forum has already been created in Russia. The Supreme Soviet chairman expressed gratitude to the envoys for the fact that the idea of holding the conference has received support in the Arab world.

R. Khasbulatov proposed that, after two days of plenary sessions, the participants in the gathering should hold meetings with representatives of the government, visit industrial enterprises, and tour various regions of Russia. In his opinion, the result of the forum could be to highlight areas of cooperation and to establish actual contacts with business partners.

Deputies Discuss Effects of International Sanctions

MK1602123093 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 16 Feb 93 p 3

[Svetlana Sukhova, Georgiy Bovt report: "Parliament Discusses International Sanctions. Foreign Ministry Subjected to Harsh Criticism"]

[Text] On 15 February, the Russian Supreme Soviet held closed hearings on the economic damage suffered by Russia through joining the UN sanctions against Libya, Iraq, and Yugoslavia. Observers say that yesterday's hearings—unlike those held in December—were dominated by deputies who are against following the UN sanctions.

Oleg Davydov, Russian first deputy minister of foreign economic relations, said that the main targets of the UN sanctions—Iraq, Libya, and Yugoslavia—had historically "held a prominent place in our trade and economic relations." Russian exporters had held strong positions on the hardware and equipment markets of those countries, enabling enterprises in our military industrial sector to operate at full capacity. According to the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, Russia lost at least $16 billion as a result of joining the UN sanctions.

The ministry's stance was supported by the Defense Ministry, the Main Intelligence Directorate [GRU], and a number of enterprise chiefs. Vladimir Babak, general designer of the Sukhoy aircraft construction firm, said that his enterprise's losses alone amounted to $10 billion. A ZIL automobile plant representative expressed particular dissatisfaction with Russia's embracing sanctions against Yugoslavia, with which the plant had had close ties of cooperation.

Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Kolokolov, who represented the Foreign Ministry, tried to counter the criticism directed at his department, which was blamed in the first place for the losses incurred, because Russia had joined the sanctions "at its prompting." He said, in particular, that had Russia ignored the UN decisions, it would have lost Western loans of around $15 billion last year and would have set itself in opposition to the world community. These arguments, however, failed to convince the deputies attending the hearings and other speakers, who said that the loans were anyway commercial ones and that the Paris Club did not want to give way on the issue of allowing Russia to pay $2.5 billion instead of $5 billion next year to service its foreign debt. As for the West, its firms, according to a GRU official, have not stopped operating in the countries subjected to UN sanctions and are signing contracts there that they hope will come into effect as soon as the sanctions are lifted.

After the hearings, it was decided to raise this question in the Supreme Soviet Presidium. What is more important, however, is that it was argued strongly during the hearings that the Russian president should from now on be stripped of his right to make his own independent decision on whether to join UN sanctions.

Parliament's Republic Council Elects New Chairman

MK1202133893 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 11 Feb 93 p 10

[Nika Stark, Aleksandr Koretskiy report: "Council of the Republic Elects Its Chairman. Veniamin Sokolov Has Become Chairman of the Chamber]

[Text] The Russian Parliament's Council of the Republic elected its new chairman on 10 February. Much as expected after the numerous past attempts to hold the elections, the place of Nikolay Ryabov, who was elected deputy speaker at the Seventh Congress of People's Deputies, has now been taken by Veniamin Sokolov, a member of the Russia faction.

Veniamin Sergeyevich Sokolov, 57, was born in Kolomna. Before being elected a people's deputy, he

lived in Krasnoyarsk. In 1976-89 he was the rector of Krasnoyarsk State University. He is a doctor of economic sciences. In 1989-90, he was second secretary of the Krasnoyarsk CPSU kraykom. In parliament, he headed a budget policy subcommittee of the Supreme Soviet Committee on Budget, Plans, Taxes, and Prices. He is one of the architects of the Russia parliament faction that forms part of the Russian Unity bloc.

The newly elected chairman, who won 60 percent of the votes in the chamber during the final voting, regards himself as a centrist who keeps the "hotheads" within the faction from radicalism, despite his being officially a member of the Russia faction. Although Sokolov was one of the architects of the faction, he has somewhat retreated lately from its running and has ceded the right to voice the faction's views to Sergey Baburin. Sokolov's centrism is confirmed also by the fact that young politicians from the Smena faction quite recently asked him, despite his age, to join them. Sokolov, however, politely declined the invitation. He will now most likely also renounce his membership in the Russia faction.

KOMMERSANT-DAILY observers believe that Sokolov's election signifies a considerable strengthening of the hand of the opposition majority in parliament. At the same time, the new chairman is not expected to give his full and unreserved support to the parliament speaker. In steering the chamber, Veniamin Sokolov will most likely try to chart his own course.

[Article includes the following boxed text:

Results of the First Round of Secret Polling to Rate the Candidates for the Position of Chairman of the Republic Council

Veniamin Sokolov, chairman of the budget commission subcommittee: 44 percent for, 19.2 percent against.

Ivan Rybkin, coordinator of the Communists of Russia faction: 41.6 percent for, 22.4 percent against.

Viktor Zhigulin, deputy chairman of the chamber: 38.4 percent for, 25.6 percent against.

Boris Zolotukhin, deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet Legislation Committee: 28.8 percent for, 36.8 percent against.

Mikhail Mityukov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet Legislation Committee: 22.4 percent for, 36 percent against.

Valeriy Kirpichnikov, chairman of the Russian Cities Union: 11.2 percent for, 47.2 percent against.]

Further on Sokolov

PM1602140993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Feb 93 p 2

[Report by Sergey Chugayev: "Member of 'Rossiya' Faction Elected Russian Parliament Soviet of Republic Speaker"]

[Text] The campaign to elect a new chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet Soviet of the Republic has finally ended, after lasting for nearly two months. On 10 February, in the third round of elections, the deputies decided on N. Ryabov's successor. He is Veniamin Sokolov, former secretary of Krasnoyarsk CPSU Kray Committee, one of the leaders of the "Rossiya" deputies' faction, and chairman of the parliamentary subcommission on the budget.

V. Sokolov was the favorite during the previous election rounds. Last time he had been prevented from being elected by the fact that the votes of the chamber's members were almost equally divided between him and M. Mityukov, chairman of the parliamentary committee on legislation, supported by the democrats. But the results of the series of votes on 10 February vividly reflected the change in the political balance in parliament. On this occasion Sokolov's chief rival instead of M. Mityukov was deputy I. Rybkin, leader of the "Communists of Russia" faction, who got more than 41 percent of the votes in the first round of the nonbinding rating vote (Sokolov got 44 percent).

Faced with the choice whether to vote for I. Rybkin, whose political orientation has always been very clear, or for V. Sokolov, who, despite belonging to the "Rossiya" faction, headed by deputy S. Baburin, has the reputation among parliamentarians of being a pragmatic centrist, the remaining democrats did not hesitate for long. "Democratic Russia" leader V. Sheynis, on behalf of the faction, declared support for V. Sokolov, which went a long way toward sealing victory for Sokolov in the final vote.

MPs Comment on Khasbulatov's New Referendum Proposals

LD1602160393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1439 GMT 16 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondents Ivan Novikov and Maria Kuzmenkova]

[Text] Moscow February 16 TASS—Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov's new proposals on the April 11 referendum have triggered controversial comments in the Russian Parliament. His proposals were formulated on the eve of a regular meeting of the Supreme Soviet's presidium.

As earlier reported, the speaker had moved to discuss the possibility of including in the referendum the question of confidence in the Russian president, in the congress, in the Supreme Soviet, and in the federal government. The voters, he moves, are to be asked also whether they want simultaneous elections of the president and members of the federal parliament to be held not later than the spring of 1994.

Interviewed by ITAR-TASS, chairman of the parliamentary commission for transport, communications, informatics and outer space Aleksey Adrov positively

assessed, on the whole, the speaker's proposals, but said they could have been all be formulated in one question: "Are you for the pre-term election of the president and the parliament?"

"These questions will undoubtedly attract more attention of the population than hazy basic principles of the constitution," he added.

At the same time, Adrov recalled about the decision of the 7th Congress of People's Deputies, ruling out any additional referendum questions.

Secretary of the parliamentary Mass Media Committee Yuriy Luchinsky adheres to a diametrically opposite view on the speaker's proposals. He doubts their sincerity. "For the sake of objectivity, I would have combined, if I was him, the questions on confidence to the congress and the parliament," he added.

It ought to be added that quite a few mps do not find the referendum expedient. ITAR-TASS was told by Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee for International Affairs and Foreign Economic Relations Yevgeniy Ambartsumov that a referendum was apt to split the society. He believes that Khasbulatov's proposal was more fit for a public opinion poll than a referendum.

"Formally," Ambartsumov stressed, "the referendum can be annulled only by the congress, but there is also another way out of the predicament. The majority of the parliament simply has to sign a document, calling for a moratorium on the referendum, and forward it to the Constitutional Court. No congress will be necessary, if the latter finds this sufficient to put it off," Ambartsumov claims.

Khasbulatov Overruled on Job Refusal for B. Denisenko

MK1302101193 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 13 Feb 93 p 2

[Nikolay Andreyev report: "He'll Have To Sign"]

[Text] In the brief report "Speaker's Vengeance?" in KURANTY No. 20 we wrote that R. Khasbulatov, citing the manifestly false argument that the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet budget was short of funds, had refused B. Denisenko's request to be transferred to full-time work on the Supreme Soviet Health, Social Provision, and Physical Culture Committee (she had left the post of deputy minister of health). It was clear that the speaker was reminding B. Denisenko of the much publicized story when she accused him of using drugs. The speaker also refused full-time Supreme Soviet jobs to a number of other Russian Federation deputies he found irksome.

As the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet parliamentary coalition for reforms announced yesterday, in the end the deputies have made R. Khasbulatov comply with the Russian Federation Law "On the Status of RSFSR People's Deputy."

Report on Supreme Soviet Roundtable 15 Feb

LD1602045293

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 2045 GMT on 15 February carries a 17-minute report by commentator Yelena Ozrina on the 15 February session of the Supreme Soviet roundtable held at the parliamentary center, at which representatives of public and political movements of the Russian Federation discussed the possibilities of holding a referendum in Russia on 11 April 1993.

First Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Shumeyko, President Yeltsin's representative on the issue of holding the referendum, delivers one of the main reports to the session.

Shumeyko says: "There is a great deal of talk about holding a referendum on the main provisions of the Constitution on 11 April of this year. The first issue discussed by many is whether to hold it or not. This is one of the issues around which points of view are divided into two diametrically opposed groups. One group says the referendum should be held because it needs to be conducted, and this group presents a mass of arguments. Another group says it should not be held because Russia will disintegrate, will split into regions, and so forth; the referendum should not be held.

"What is the opinion of the executive power, which I represent today on this issue? As you know, I am also the chairman of the government commission for holding the referendum. The executive power is not presented with the question of whether or not to hold a referendum. It is quite clear that it needs to be conducted. Why does this point of view exist? Because, and this coincides with my personal point of view, this decision is good only when it is legal.

"The decision to hold the referendum was made by the seventh Congress of People's Deputies. As you know, the congress is the supreme body of the Russian Federation's representative power. Only a congress can revoke this decision. I can cite in full chronological order—starting with Constitution articles and congress decisions—the explanations of the congress's decision, the Supreme Soviet decisions, the presidium's decisions and, lastly, the instructions of the presidents that say there is no way back and that the executive power needs to hold a referendum. This is the technical side of the matter. It is connected with the legal basis for the referendum; there are no doubts here. The executive power is preparing to conduct a referendum.

"If there is a different decision by a congress, if a congress revokes its previous decision, we will not deal with this. Many people ask today why the issue of a decision by a congress has to be taken so far. They say we

should reach some agreement. Let Zorkin, Khasbulatov, and President Yeltsin get together again. Let the three of them talk again. Let them agree and decide, and there will be no need to hold a referendum. I should draw your attention, however, to the fact that this decision will not be a judicial or legal one, even if they came to an agreement. This would not be a decision of a congress; this would be an agreement between the three leaders.

"Incidentally, each of them should have powers. If the president has such powers, then respected Ruslan Imranovich [Khasbulatov] should obtain powers from the Supreme Soviet. Here the question is debatable whether he would receive such powers for the talks or not. In a similar fashion, Constitutional Court Chairman Zorkin should acquire powers from the Court.

"I would like to draw your attention once again to the legal side of such an agreement. Both the respected chairman of the Supreme Soviet and the respected chairman of the Constitutional Court can always, excuse me for saying so, hide their positions behind a decision of the collective body they head. That is, each of them can say: Yes, I spoke; yes, I had a point of view; yes, I agreed. But the Supreme Soviet decided so and so in one case, and the other will say that the Court decided so and so.

"The president is deprived of such a position. He has no collective body behind which he can hide his decision as a president. That is why many people are saying today that the position of the president has not been made clear. Where are his questions, and what are we going to discuss? The issue is that the president has not received such questions yet. As you know, questions were approved by the presidium of the Supreme Soviet, which is not a legitimate body in this case because these are not issues for the Supreme Soviet. The Supreme Soviet did not examine them at its sitting and did not propose them to anyone. The presidium of the Supreme Soviet, for no particular reason, proposed to examine them and to talk about them.

"I will not continue further about the judicial side of the matter. If necessary, it can be clearly proved that a referendum should be conducted."

Ryabov says that Shumeyko was performing his duty in proving his point and stresses that it is necessary to subdivide the issue of the referendum into two parts: first, whether to hold it or not and, second, whether it is necessary to create a political mechanism for implementing the tasks and goals of the referendum in question if the expediency of conducting a referendum is placed in doubt. He goes on to say that the doubts of some political forces with regard to holding a referendum have been substantiated.

Ozrina then interviews some of the roundtable participants in the foyer of the parliamentary center.

Scientific and Industrial Union President Volskiy mentions his "desire to leave the session and wait until talks between Yeltsin and Khasbulatov—with Zorkin's participation—lead to some sort of an agreement." He says he supports holding a referendum on pre-term elections of the parliament and the president.

Democratic Party leader Travkin questions whether the present situation can create the conditions for elections. He advocates giving real powers to the government in its dealing with the economy. He says he would not allow the parliament or the president to interfere in the economy because the government would slow the decline in the standard of living.

Supreme Economic Council Chairman V.O. Ispravnikov mentions that the topic at the roundtable today worries our society. He says that any retreat from constitutional norms and laws adopted by the legislative power would lead to impasse situations.

G. A. Zyuganov, who was elected chairman of the central executive committee of the Russian Communist Party yesterday and who is taking part in the roundtable as a co-chairman of the National Salvation Front, says he is afraid that the referendum would destabilize the situation in the country even further. He says he believes that under the present conditions "attention should be focused on elaborating a concept of national security, on stabilizing the socioeconomic situation, and on taking urgent measures to combat crime. Otherwise, the situation will get out of control."

A. P. Vladislavlev, vice president of the Scientific and Industrial Union, says that what is taking place here cannot be called a roundtable; the leaders of the Supreme Soviet and the government are only holding consultations with political forces, public organizations, and scientists.

Ozrina concludes by saying that "having thoroughly discussed the issue of the referendum on 11 April 1993, the participants in the roundtable of political and public forces of the Russian Federation have come to this conclusion: Taking into account the complex socioeconomic and political situation in the country connected with the continuing slump in production, the rise in inflation, the drop in living standards of the majority of the population, and the exacerbation of the social tension in society, the roundtable of public and political forces in the Russian Federation believes that it is not expedient under the present conditions to conduct an all-Russian referendum on the main provisions of the future Constitution of the Russian Federation, which was set by the seventh Congress of People's Deputies for 11 April this year."

Parliament Chambers Holding Separate Sessions

LD1702111493 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0900 GMT 17 Feb 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The Russian parliament is working today in separate chambers. In the Soviet of the Republic the sitting is being conducted by the chamber's new chairman Veniamin Sokolov. It naturally began with discussion of improving the work of the Soviet of the Republic. Deputies then began examining additions and amendments to the laws of the Russian Federation on state customs duty, on state pensions, on taxes on the property of enterprises and on value-added tax. The Soviet of Nationalities will today discuss the draft law on tax police. The agenda also includes a report by Sergey Shakhray on the work of the State Committee for Nationalities Policy of the Russian Federation. Both chambers intend today to examine the draft law on the organization of television and radio broadcasting in the Russian Federation.

Nechayev Addresses Industry Committee Session

PM1602110593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Feb 93 First Edition p 1

[Aleksandr Linkov report: "Parliament: Who Knows What We Must Do?"]

[Text] After a week-long recess the Supreme Soviet has resumed work. Parliamentarians were working in committees and commissions. There was a large audience for the session of the Committee for Industry and Power Engineering. The government's work in elaborating a state industrial policy was discussed together with the "Industrial Union" deputies' faction and leaders of regions and enterprises who had been invited to attend. The prevailing situation made it necessary to discuss this topic again. Last year's results were depressing. The forecast for this year does not inspire greater optimism. Does the Council of Ministers have a clear idea of what should be done?

Economy Minister Nechayev tried to answer this question for the audience. He spoke with concern about the main problem—the threat of hyperinflation. In fact the economy has entered this phase. In January inflation was 26-30 percent. The same could happen in February. The rate of the ruble has fallen catastrophically. These disastrous processes can be halted only by a toughening of credit and finance policy. The minister reported that the government has drafted the necessary measures and they will be discussed on 13 February when the heads of administrations of the regions and leaders of republics meet in Moscow.

On the question of industrial policy, A. Nechayev highlighted some of the priority areas where special attention will be focused this year. Specifically this means processing enterprises in the agro-industrial complex and the revival of Russian's merchant fleet: Since the collapse of the Union Russia has been left virtually without a fleet. Close attention is being paid to stabilizing the fuel and energy complex and to questions of conversion.

The speeches of S. Korolev, deputy finance minister, and V. Gerashchenko, chairman of the Central Bank of Russia, were devoted to financial problems. Unfortunately little has changed in this sphere to date. Nonpayments between enterprises remain great and the tax system is far from perfect and clearly noes not encourage the production of goods. At the same time the state treasury is missing out on billions of rubles which dealers are making in buying and selling. Is there a way out of the financial labyrinth? Winding up his speech, V. Gerashchenko, chairman of the Central Bank of Russia, made the remarkable comment that a solution is possible but that we must rely on our own efforts and not listen to various foreign advisers who by day give all sorts of consultations and teach people how to live but among a narrow circle of acquaintances by night admit: Boys, we do not know what to do ourselves.

The Committee for Industry and Power Generation and the deputies' faction prepared a number of proposals for this session which, in the opinion of those who drafted them, could help halt the chaotic slump in production. During the discussion other ideas were suggested. The main thing now is that the government has listened to those who are directly involved in production, has not rejected their positive suggestions out of hand, and has embarked on businesslike cooperation.

Amendments to Military Service Law Passed

PM1702111593 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 Feb 93 p 1

[Vladimir Yermolin report: "Debate Was Stormy but Yielded Results"]

[Text] The Supreme Soviet has examined the president's amendments to the law "On Military Obligation and Military Service."

On Thursday [11 February] the Supreme Soviet started its work on examining the Russian Federation president's amendments to the law "On Military Obligation and Military Service." As expected, the main point of debate flared up around Article 21, which makes provision for deferment of citizens' being drafted for military service.

In the two weeks that have elapsed since the Supreme Soviet last discussed the law, the Russian Federation president has exercised his right and proposed reducing the list of "deferred-term conscripts" in Part 2 of Article 21 by applying this norm only to citizens "studying for the first time on day-release at an educational institution of higher professional education—for the duration of this study."

Representatives of the Russian Federation president and the Defense Ministry earnestly requested the deputies to support this amendment. First of all Deputy Defense Minister Colonel General Valeriy Mironov, and then Army General Konstantin Kobets, cited data which demonstrated very clearly that extending the list of "deferred-term conscripts" entitled to a deferment would lead to disruption of the draft campaign as early

as 1993, the level of Armed Forces manpower acquisition would reach the critical mark, and the Army would simply "be unable to perform its tasks in full." Ruslan Orekhov, the president's representative, informed deputies that if the president's amendment was rejected, the Internal Troops would be placed in a grave position since they have only been brought up to 50 percent of their prescribed strength.

The amendment was not passed, however. Having examined the president's other proposals and having adopted most of them, parliament came back to Article 21. Point-by-point voting on Part 2 began. The upshot was that citizens "studying for the first time on day-release at an educational institution of higher professional education—for the duration of this study," citizens "raised and supported financially for no less than seven years by a parent (or someone standing in for a parent) if the latter is over 50 years old, has not married within the indicated time frame, and has no other children," and also physicians and teachers working in the countryside, will still be entitled to deferment under the law. Private farmers and those who have a brother performing military service under the draft are excluded.

By noon the decree on the procedure for introducing the law was adopted in its entirety. It comes into force from 1 March 1993, and the point regarding deferment for draftees with a single parent over 50 comes into force from 1 January 1995.

The labors of the parliamentary Committee for Defense and Security Questions and a large group of specialists from the Russian Federation Defense Ministry are coming to an end. Provided the president does not send back the law with yet more amendments (he has the right to do so), we may expect the Russian Federation Armed Forces to receive the law "On Military Obligation and Military Service"—one of the pivotal laws of military legislation—within the next few days.

Parliament Requests Granting Credits to Energy Sector

MK1602101893 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 13 Feb 93 p 2

[Viktor Ivanov report: "Supreme Soviet Requests Granting of Promised Credits"]

[Text] The Russian Central Bank has delayed granting the credits to the fuel and energy sector that it was supposed to receive by the end of 1992 under a decision by the Supreme Soviet. Given this unusual situation, on 12 February parliament passed a special decree "On financing the fuel and energy sector" reaffirming its instruction to the Central Bank to release the credits and extending the term of granting them to 1993.

The Supreme Soviet decree requires the Central Bank and the Finance Ministry to grant fuel and energy enterprises preferential credits totaling 200 billion rubles [R] in March-April 1993 and to convert the R148.1 billion of credits given to the fuel and energy sector in 1992 to preferential terms of repayment. Observers note that exactly the same requests (except that they called for the credits to be granted by the end of 1992) were made in the parliamentary decrees of 18 and 25 December 1992. The Central Bank, however, did not comply with those decrees, and this is what prompted the 12 February "follow-up" decree extending the term of granting credits.

The decree was passed at the request of the Council of Ministers and signed by Deputy Prime Minister Georgiy Khizha. The government gave as the reason for its initiative "the extremely difficult financial situation" of the fuel and energy sector that is being worsened by the failure of consumers to pay for energy products. According to the Council of Ministers, consumers owe R2 trillion to enterprises in the fuel and energy sector.

The government request for an extension was supported by the parliamentary committee for industry and energy. However, the R200 billion will be enough only for enterprises "to repay their debts," committee chairman Alvin Yeremin said. These arguments proved fully satisfactory to the deputies, who passed the decree almost unanimously.

Experts note that the government's request to extend the term for granting new credits and convert the credits already granted to preferential terms, coupled with parliament's positive reaction to the request, are completely in line with the emerging trend of stimulating the development of the fuel and energy sector as Russia's main source of hard-currency earnings. Noting the unanimity shown by the government and parliament on the subject, observers forecast that the Supreme Soviet will continue to treat requests for granting extra credits to the fuel and energy sector quite favorably, but since the Central Bank has insufficient real funds, this credit assistance will be of an inflationary nature.

What intrigues observers most in this situation was why the Central Bank did not comply with the earlier decisions by parliament within the specified time. A delay of this nature is unusual, given the policy of pumping credits into the Russian economy that has been recently pursued by the Central Bank. According to information obtained by KOMMERSANT-DAILY, the credits were delayed with the knowledge of Central Bank Chairman Viktor Gerashchenko himself, and for a fairly simple reason: He did not want to exceed the credit ceiling for the fourth quarter of 1992 that had been previously set by the bank. This means that, while pouring credits into the economy, the Central Bank is trying, wherever possible, not to overstep the formally planned targets in order to avert any reproaches for losing control over the situation, which are dangerous in any bureaucratic system.

[Article contains the following boxed passage:

How much the fuel sector owes and how much is owed to it:

(official data as of the beginning of 1993)

Total debt of Russian enterprises—R4 trillion;

Debt owed by consumers to the fuel and energy sector—R2 trillion;

Debt owed by fuel and energy enterprises—R200 billion.]

Regional Affairs

North Ossetia Says 'Illegal Steps' Make Talks 'Problematical'

OW1602094493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0911 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] North Ossetia's leadership has described as an infringement on the republic's territorial integrity the decision of Ingushetia's Central Electoral Commission to make North Ossetia's Prigorodnyy Region a constituency in Ingushetia's presidential election.

In a telegram sent on Tuesday [16 February] to the chairman of the Russian parliament, Ruslan Khasbulatov, the parliament presidium and government of North Ossetia say, "The illegal steps of the Ingush leadership make the continuation of the Ossetian-Ingush negotiations and the implementation of the agreements reached problematical."

The North Ossetian parliament's presidium on Monday instructed the North Ossetian delegation at the talks in Kislovodsk to suspend negotiating until the Ingush Central Electoral Commission canceled its "unconstitutional decree." Presidium member Valeriy Kozayev told Interfax on Tuesday the talks' breakdown is "very probable since the Ingush leadership still hasn't revised its decision." The decision, taken at the end of last week, was canceled on Sunday by Aleksandr Kotenkov, head of provisional administration of the state of emergency zone, who demanded that the Ingush leadership "bring into line with the law the decree of the Central Electoral Commission and hold the election only on the territory of the Malgobek, Nazran, and Sunzha Districts of Ingushetia."

According to Kotenkov, the talks' failure would inevitably lead to the escalation of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict, since "it is above all the hope that some concrete results will be achieved in Kislovodsk that makes it possible to keep the situation under control."

Third Round Ossetian-Ingush Talks; Conflict Zone Calm

LD1602114893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1132 GMT 16 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz February 16 TASS—A plenipotentiary delegation of North Ossetia, led by First Vice-Chairman of the North Ossetian Supreme Soviet Yuriy Biragov, went to Kislovodsk today for more talks with the Ingush side.

Its members believe that the third round of negotiations in Kislovodsk, mediated by representatives from Dagestan and Stavropol territory, should give a fresh impetus to the search for peace and concord in the Prigorodnyy district of North Ossetia.

"At the same time, plenipotentiary representatives of North Ossetia," Biragov stated, "have decided to lodge a protest with the Ingush delegation against the decision of the Central Election Committee of the Ingush Republic to form an election constituency in the Prigorodnyy district of North Ossetia and Vladikavkaz, because this contradicts the decision of the Presidium of the Russian Supreme Soviet on the election of the Ingush president and is liable to destabilise the situation in the state of emergency zone, to torpedo the negotiations."

In the meantime, according to information released by the headquarters of the provisional administration, the situation in the conflict zone remains relatively calm. The Russian peace-keeping forces are in full control of the situation. There were no attacks on army units, guarded objects and checkpoints during the past 24 hours. Militia patrols have confiscated from the local population scores of units of firearms, grenades, explosive devices and ammunition.

Members of the investigation task team have searched fifteen houses in order to see whether there were any hostages or missing persons forcibly kept there, and to find bases of illegal armed groups on the territory of North Ossetia.

Members of the task team have identified two bodies, exhumed on February 3 in the Koban Gorge of the Prigorodnyy district of North Ossetia. They proved to be Zakriy Yelmurzayev and Mays Yevloyev, two Ingushs from Vladikavkaz, who were reported missing from November 3, 1992.

Negotiations Will Be 'Difficult'

OW1602150893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1418 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The head of the provisional administration in North Ossetia and Ingushetia Aleksandr Kotenkov thinks that the third round of Ossetian-Ingush talks beginning in Kislovodsk on Tuesday [16 February] will be the longest and most difficult. In an interview with IF [INTERFAX] he expressed the opinion that the negotiations will last for at least five days and the two sides will discuss the most explosive matter: The return of refugees.

Kotenkov said that during the previous two rounds in Kislovodsk the approach of the Ossetian delegation was largely changed: At the beginning it refused to discuss the matter altogether.

The head of the provisional administration said that at the beginning of the Tuesday meeting the two delegations will inform each other about the implementation of the understanding on the return of hostages and search for the missing. He also believes a concrete document will be worked out on the disarmament of illegal paramilitary formations.

The talks in Kislovodsk with the mediation of delegations from Dagestan and Stavropol region are expected to begin in the afternoon.

Negotiations Not Resumed

OW1702105393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1036 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "The Ossetian delegation in Kislovodsk is fully determined to continue negotiations, but on a legal basis," said North Ossetian parliament presidium member Stanislav Kesaev in a Wednesday [17 February] interview with Interfax. He reported that all of the participants in the negotiations had come to the unanimous conclusion that the Electoral Commission of Ingushetia should be convinced of the illegality of its resolution on the inclusion of the Vladikavkaz and Prigorodnyy regions of North Ossetia in the Ingushetian presidential elections. Only after the withdrawal of this resolution, stated the Ossetian delegation's Tuesday announcement, would it be ready to carry on with negotiations.

The Kislovodsk talks have not resumed since a recess for the resolution of disagreements was called, since the participants are awaiting written confirmation of the disputed election commission resolution from Nazran, the administrative center of Ingushetia.

In addition, a group of mediators headed by Russian State Committee for Ethnic Policy Deputy Chairman Valeriy Shamshurinym left for Nazran on Tuesday evening in an effort to come up with an on-the-spot compromise solution. It is expected that the result of the mission will be known this afternoon.

Ingushetian delegation head Mauli Barkinkhoev reported in an interview with Interfax that the Ingushetians intend to continue the negotiations because "the cost of the problems of the hostages, who are in an extremely difficult conditions, is becoming greater with every hour, and must be resolved in short order."

Shatalin Appointed Deputy Head of Ingush Administration

LD1402152793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1353 GMT 14 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow, 14 Feb—Colonel General Yuriy Shatalin today took up his new duties as deputy head of the interim administration in the territories of North Ossetia and the Ingush Republic. He was appointed to the post on 12 February by a decree of the Russian president.

Yuriy Shatalin is often dubbed "the general of the hot spots." Since his return from Afghanistan, he spent several of the last few years as commander of the internal troops of the USSR, spending hundreds of days in postings in Armenia and Azerbaijan, Fergana and Abkhazia, Moldavia and Nagorno-Karabakh. Wherever shots were ringing out, fires raging, and blood being spilled, he was there.

In September 1991, Shatalin was dismissed from his post as commander of the internal troops for allegedly "supporting the State of Emergency Committee." Later, it was proved that he was not implicated in the conspiracy.

In recent months, Shatalin has been first deputy commander-in- chief of the border troops of the CIS countries. After Russia's border troops were formed, he joined the reserve of the Security Ministry. And now comes another appointment to one of the "hot-spots."

Dudayev Denounces Abkhaz 'Pro-Russian Policy'

AU1202152293 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0900 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] A few days ago, a camera crew from the television program Saghamo Mshvidobisa [Good Evening] was in Groznyy. It was also accompanied by (?Givi) Kapanadze, reporter for the Pikis Saati [Rush Hour] program. The television reporters were received by Chechnya President Dzhokhar Dudayev and had a long conversation with him. (?Listeners will have the opportunity) to see the whole interview in the Saghamo Mshvidobisa program on Sunday. Here is a brief resume of the conversation.

[Begin recording] Touching upon Chechnya's many problems and other questions, President Dzhokhar Dudayev expressed his own views on the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict. According to him, Russia has always tried to provoke the Georgian leadership into taking military (?action) against Abkhazia so that Abkhazia would subsequently appeal to Russia for help [passage indistinct]. The Chechen president pointed out that a Chechen armed detachment, members of the [Caucasian Peoples] Confederation [CPC], and ordinary volunteers were fighting on the Abkhaz side. However, today, Abkhazia's pro-Russian policy and its and Russia's (?unstoppable) aim had become clear to many of them

and, therefore, many were returning. Today, there are 30-35 Chechens fighting in Abkhazia; these are people who are not subordinate to the official authorities and their stance is in general unclear.

Touching upon the role of the Confederation, Dudayev pointed out that the CPC had, in its time, played a positive role in restoring Caucasian relations that had been destroyed and estranged although, recently, the Ossetian-Ingush conflict had (?shown) that Russia's [word indistinct] could paralyze the Confederation and that, in general, it now did not represent a big force.

I have always recognized and continue to recognize Georgia's territorial integrity and have always been kindly disposed toward Georgia and the Georgian people. When detachments were gathering in Groznyy in order to go to Abkhazia, I appealed to them (?and said) that Georgia was now in greater need of support and that the Chechen people should not struggle against their compatriots. [words indistinct] alongside one another and we have the same historical roots.

Dudayev confirmed that on 3 February he met with Batoni [Georgian polite form of address] Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian Parliament-head of state, in Baku. The Chechen president stated that there would be a meeting of the leaders of Georgia, Chechnya, Azerbaijan, and Armenia in the very near future that would be (?devoted) to initiating the end of the wars in the Caucasus. [end recording]

Chechen President Accused of Attempt To Seize Power

LD1402220893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2142 GMT 14 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Groznyy February 14 TASS—Members of the Chechen parliamentary opposition have accused Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev of "an attempt to seize power in the Chechen Republic and carry out a coup."

The move followed the publication of a draft constitution of the Chechen Republic proposed by Dudayev in the newspaper ICHKERIA. Dudayev asked people to say their opinion in a nationwide poll which is expected to be carried out by February 19.

A statement by five members of the opposition parliamentary faction "The Right of the Chechen Parliament" headed by Yusup Soslambekov, head of the parliament Foreign Relations Committee, which was broadcast by local television late on Sunday said a draft constitution proposed by Dudayev "introduces presidential rule in the republic and thus cannot be accepted." They said the parliament will suspend Dudayev's decree ordering a public poll. "If the president decides to press for his decision by force, we have equal forces," Soslambekov said.

Chechen First Vice-Prime Minister Yaragiy Mamodayev said "Dzhokhar Dudayev's actions clearly show that he has failed to carry out his duties of the president and prime minister."

He expressed doubts of whether the presidency should be preserved in the republic and strongly criticised mutual recriminations between the two branches of power.

"We need not 'political clashes' but the unification of all forces and means for the soonest possible establishment of normal relations with Russia. This is only way to rescue a young Chechen state from a collapse," Mamodayev said.

'Military Solution' to Chechnya Crisis 'Likely'

PM1602160193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Feb 93 p 1

[Aleksandra Lugovskaya report: "Political Situation Sharply Deteriorated in Chechnya"]

[Text] A report received from Groznyy through ITAR-TASS channels speaks of a sharp deterioration in the political situation in the Chechen Republic. Dzhokhar Dudayev's own draft new constitution, published in the government newspaper ICHKERIYA, has provided the grounds for the constitutional crisis. The president has asked the people to express themselves on the provisions of the Basic Law, and in record time too, on 19 February.

Immediately after its publication, late on the evening of 14 February, five deputies from the "The Right of the Chechen Parliament" faction leveled strongly worded charges against the president on local television, describing his actions as an "attempt to usurp power in Chechnya and accomplish a de facto coup d'etat." In the opinion of the presidential opposition, the form of constitution proposed by Dzhokhar Dudayev "effectively introduces presidential rule into the republic and cannot be accepted in any circumstances." The five parliamentarians also stated that the presidential edict on holding a nationwide poll on 19 February will be halted by the legislative authorities. While Yusup Soslambekov, chairman of the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee, warned in the television program: "If the president tries to implement his decision by force, we have equal forces."

The acuteness of the crisis is primarily due to the fact that a new Basic Law, approved and passed by parliament, has now been operating in the Chechen Republic since 12 March 1992. And Dzhokhar Dudayev's unexpected "version of the constitution" threatens to split the republic into two opposing camps. Bearing in mind that the president is the commander in chief of the Chechen Armed Forces and that under his decree everyone is entitled to acquire a personal weapon, the "president's men" could appear pretty powerful. However, it would not be amiss to point out that Yusup Soslambekov, who issued the warning to the president, in addition to chairing the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee,

also heads the well-known Confederation of the Peoples of the Caucasus (the former Confederation of Mountain Peoples), which has well-trained armed formations. So a military solution to the constitutional crisis in Groznyy is very likely.

ITAR-TASS cites a commentary on the current situation by First Vice Premier Yaragi Mamodayev, who describes Dudayev's actions as graphic confirmation of the fact that "he cannot cope with the basic functions of president and prime minister." Criticizing the attacks the two branches of power are making on each other, Mamodayev observes that what Chechnya needs today is not "political showdowns" but concerted efforts to establish normal relations with Russia as speedily as possible: "Only this can save the young Chechen state from collapse."

Chechnya's Mamodayev on Agreements To Be Signed With Russia

PM1602110193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Feb 93 First Edition p 3

[Pavel Anokhin report under the "Press Conference" rubric: "Chechnya Seeks Independence. But It Wants To Live in Harmony with Russia"]

[Text] The second round of talks between official delegations of the Russian Federation and the Chechen Republic is expected in Groznyy on 15 February. On its eve Yaragi Mamodayev, first vice poremier of the Chechen Republic Cabinet of Ministers, and a group of Chechen Republic government ministers, held a press conference in Moscow.

Yaragi Mamodayev reported that specific results had been achieved in the process of political dialogue between Moscow and Groznyy and that the signing of important documents is being prepared. A draft agreement on economic cooperation is virtually prepared and an accord has been reached on lifting the blockade with regard to banking measures, on the Central Bank's allocating around 3 billion rubles to pay the pensions of pensioners in Chechnya, on starting up flights between the two republics' capitals as of 15 Februry, on withdrawing Russian troops from Chechnya and Ingushetia, on exporting goods produced by the Chechen Republic, and on Moscow's not objecting to the humanitarian aid which Turkey has agreed to supply to Chechnya.

"Our desire for the freedom and independence of Chechnya is not directed against Russia's state interests, but merely reflects the will of the Chechen people," Yaragi Mamodayev said. "We are not waging an anti-Russian struggle, but are merely striving to determine the level of our integration within the world community ourselves and wish to be taken account of. However, we regard Russia as a prosperous state and wish to remain in a single economic and ruble area with it, to enjoy good-neighborly relations..."

The Chechen first vice premier stressed that the signing of bilateral agreements rather than the Federation Treaty is involved here, because Groznyy firmly advocates a sovereign, autonomous Chechen state which is not within the Russian Federation, regarding it as an equal subject of international law.

Speaking about the results of the talks on mutual delegation of powers, Yaragi Mamodayev briefed journalists on the questions which will be tackled jointly. These involve safeguarding the rights of the individual for Russians in Chechnya and Chechens in Russia, price policy, banking transactions, the power industry, transport, defense, protection of the borders of common area, and the work of law enforcement agencies.

"Russia has its own geopolitical interests in Chechnya, and we have similar interests in Russia. And we should not pick holes in what the presidents have said. Let us seek the path toward good-neighborliness," Yaragi Mamodayev said in conclusion.

Chechen President on Decree on Public Poll

OW1702125393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1144 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In Chechnya, President Dzhokhar Dudayev said that a supplement to the decree on a public poll of citizens of the republic had been signed on the adoption of the new edition of the constitution scheduled for 19 February.

In a television appeal on Tuesday [16 February] evening the president of Chechnya said that the supplement explains that the poll has in the first place a sociological character and entails no legal consequences. According to President Dudayev those who "confuse a poll with a referendum and thus kindle the feeling of horror simply fear the loss of their control over the executive structures."

President Dudayev explained the necessity of adopting the draft of the constitution in that many organs of the executive branch are no longer controlled by the president. The Chechen parliament, having announced the unconstitutionality of the decree, see it as a threat of direct presidential rule in the republic.

In Groznyy on Wednesday morning a session of the constitutional court of the republic started on this issue. The same issue will be discussed at the session of the Chechen parliament which will be continuing today.

International Affairs

Further on Visit by German Foreign Minister

Kinkel Holds News Conference

LD1602155993 Berlin ADN in German 1203 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Kiev (ADN)—German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel ended his two-day official visit to Ukraine today. Kinkel said at a news conference in Kiev that he regards the former Soviet republic, with its population of 53 million, as a stabilizing factor in Eastern Europe. [passage omitted]

According to Kinkel, Germany intends to participate in the destruction of missile fuel in Ukraine. The joint scrapping of ammunition will be tackled, as well. The minister said the large number of nuclear weapons still in existence following the end of the East-West confrontation gives cause for concern. For this reason Ukraine will have to be given assistance from the G-7 fund that is to be set up to assist in the elimination of weapons of mass destruction in the CIS states. [passage omitted]

Roundup of Kinkel Visit

LD1602152693 Hamburg DPA in German 1219 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] Kiev (DPA)—German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel assured the Ukrainian leadership during his two-day talks in Kiev that Germany wishes to gear its eastern European policy not solely toward Russia but increasingly also toward Ukraine. Ukraine can count on Germany in its desire for closer ties with European structures. Bonn will also actively support the country's reform process, Kinkel said today during talks with Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma.

Just as he did yesterday when speaking to President Leonid Kravchuk, Kinkel cited ratification of the Start I Treaty and Ukraine's signing of the Nonproliferation Treaty as the prerequisite for greater German support. However, Kinkel evidently gave no firm pledge as to when this would happen. Nevertheless, his interlocutors named no conditions for this either.

Kinkel considers it possible the Germany will participate in Ukraine's proposed fund for the destruction of nuclear weapons. Germany was requested to assist materially with the elimination of missile fuel and ammunition.

Kravchuk's allegations that German companies were involved in breaches of the Yugoslav embargo on Ukrainian territory turned out to be unprovable. Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko described comments made in this connection yesterday by the Ukrainian president as a "misunderstanding." Kinkel requested a list of the firms alleged to be involved.

A further topic under discussion was the distribution of the planned fund for Nazi victims, for which the German government has earmarked 1 billion German marks. Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine are to divide the money.

Kinkel placed a wreath at the Babi Yar memorial on the northern edge of Kiev, where some 100,000 people, most of them Jews, were shot by the Germans between 1941 and 1943. Kinkel is expected back in Bonn early this evening.

Joint Declaration Signed

LD1602195193 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] [Announcer] The official visit to Ukraine of Klaus Kinkel, German vice chancellor and foreign minister, continued today.

[Correspondent] Ivan Plyushch, chairman of the Supreme Council of Ukraine, received the head of the German external political department today. The state of and prospects of Ukrainian-German relations were discussed during their conversation. They also discussed the possible volume of German economic help for Ukraine. The amount and rate of German investment in the economy of Ukraine, Klaus Kinkel noted, will continue to depend on the nature of reforms in Ukraine, and on Ukraine's guarantees for foreign investors.

Dmytro Pavlychko, chairman of the Commission of the Supreme Council of Ukraine for Foreign Affairs; Anatoliy Zlenko, minister of foreign affairs of Ukraine; and other officials took part in the meeting.

A conversation between Ukraine Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma and Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel also took place today, during which the wide spectrum of economic cooperation between Ukraine and Germany was discussed. The sides also touched upon military problems, and possible contacts in this sphere. Viktor Pynzenyk and Mykola Zhulynskyy, deputy prime ministers of Ukraine, and other officials, and Hennecke Graf von Bassewitz, German ambassador to Ukraine, took part in the conversation.

The initialling of a joint declaration about the basis for relations between Ukraine and Germany took place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Klaus Kinkel and Anatoliy Zlenko put their signatures to this important document. After the declaration was signed, a conversation took place between the two foreign ministers on Ukrainian-German relations at various levels and cooperation in the international arena.

Klaus Kinkel laid a wreath today at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in the Park of Glory, honoring the memory of Soviet soldiers who perished in the struggle against fascism.

The German foreign minister also laid a wreath at the monument to the victims of fascism at Babi Yar.

Klaus Kinkel received Dmytro Pavlychko, chairman of the Commission of the Supreme Council of Ukraine for Foreign Affairs, and Valentyn Lemish, chairman of the Commission of the Supreme Council for Issues of Defense and State Security, at his residence this afternoon.

Klaus Kinkel held a news conference on the results of his official visit to Ukraine for Ukrainian and foreign journalists. He expressed satisfaction with the talks at the highest level, stressed the priority directions for the development of Ukrainian-German relations, announced the intention to open a trade and economic mission in Kiev in the near future, and replied to numerous questions from journalists.

[Announcer] As our correspondent has just reported, Klaus Kinkel and his party have left for their homeland, having completed an official visit to Ukraine today.

Personnel Training Agreement Signed

LD1602232593 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] An intergovernmental protocol between Ukraine and Germany on cooperation in the sphere of training personnel was signed in Kiev today.

[Correspondent] The implementation of international technical assistance Leonid Kisterskiy and Hennecke Graf von Bassewitz, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Federal Republic of Germany to Ukraine. [sentence as heard] This agreement envisages cooperation between our countries in the training and improvement of qualifications of experts, management personnel and state management bodies in the sphere of the economy.

The main aim of this decision is to support economic reforms in Ukraine by the rendering of technical and intellectual assistance by Germany. In particular it envisages broad professional links between academies, educational establishments, and government organizations. The ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany emphasized that Ukraine should be helped to enter the European economic space (?with the rights) of an equal partner, as it has strong scientific, technical and economic potential.

Kiev Meeting Produces Deal on Black Sea Fleet's Future

PM1602155193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Feb 93 p 1

[Vladimir Maryukha report: "Positive Progress Noted in Black Sea 'Carve Up'"]

[Text] This was hardly the most productive week in the quest for a compromise decision on the fate of the Black Sea Fleet. The Fleet was visited for the first time Friday [12 February] by Colonel General Morozov, Ukrainian minister of defense, who assured officers that he will sign no more directives on transferring the jurisdiction of Black Sea Fleet units, on the grounds that most servicemen in these units have taken the Ukrainian oath.

This visit was preceded by a Russian-Ukrainian meeting in Kiev. In it, [Russian] Government Vice Premier Yuriy Yarov and Admiral Feliks Gromov, commander-in-chief of the Russian Navy, took part on the Russian side, with Colonel General Ivan Byzhan, first deputy defense minister, and Rear Admiral Borys Kozhyn, commander of the Ukrainian Navy, on the Ukrainian side. The agreements elaborated at this meeting were submitted to Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kravchuk for signature.

The package of documents presented for the presidents' signatures contain a draft of the status of the Black Sea Fleet for the transition period, as well as statutes of a joint fleet command and on financing the Black Sea Fleet. It is proposed that the sides share financial expenditure equally, and settlements will be effected through the National Bank of Ukraine. In doing this, the exchange rate for the ruble against the coupon will be set at one to one, which, given the difference on the "black market," may well have a significant effect on the material well-being of Black Sea sailors.

Officers Reportedly Seek Transfer to Russian Fleet

LD1602182893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1555 GMT 16 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunayskiy]

[Text] Moscow February 16 TASS—The number of Ukrainian Navy officers wishing to serve in the Russian Black Sea Fleet continues to increase as the hope for prosperous life promised by the Ukrainian Navy command is vanishing with every passing day.

Appeals for a transfer are piling up on the working desk of Eduard Baltin, commander of the Black Sea Fleet, mostly from officers serving in the Ukrainian Navy Institute in Sevastopol, the Crimean naval base, the Izmail and other military garrisons.

In the Donuzlav Brigade of the Crimean naval base alone, 18 officers have filed such appeals.

Among the main reasons forcing officers to request a transfer, they name the policy of nationalism pursued by the Ukrainian Navy command and disagreement with the policy of the Ukrainian leadership, including President Leonid Kravchuk's refusal to sign the CIS Charter and the collective security treaty.

In their appeals officers often write "I request that my oath of allegiance to the people of Ukraine be considered as invalid and my actions as hasty and erroneous."

Some officers said the last straw that forced them to take the decision was an attempt to dismantle a monument to Vladimir Lenin, the founder of the Soviet state, in the

Sevastopol Military Engineering School by Valeriy Kovrizhko, a representative of the Ukrainian Defence Ministry educational department. As a result, the monument was seriously damaged.

Kuchma: Russia Using 'Oil Whip' on Kiev

OW1202213493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1803 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Leonid Kuchma, Ukrainian Premier, has said that the economic relations with Russia give his Government the biggest headache. He told a conference of Ukrainian entrepreneurs that in January not a gram of Russian gasoline has reached Ukraine in a breach of a commitment made by the Russian Government. The prices of Russian oil have not been settled while numerous Russian leaders would like to use an "oil whip" on Ukraine.

The Premier noted that the country's economic situation has not improved even though a halt had been put on the catastrophic plunge of production.

Kuchma described the social climate in Ukraine as "extremely tense" and admitted that an explosion was possible unless the Government managed to "stop the inflation or at least reduce its rate".

He called on the country's business community to cooperate with the Government in carrying through the reforms. The businessmen suggested setting up a Council of Business Circles under the Cabinet and an expert team of lawyers and economists which would help the Government in the wording of its decrees.

Plyushch, Iranian Oil Minister Discuss Cooperation

LD1202171093 Tehran IRNA in English 1412 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] Moscow, Feb, 12, IRNA—Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, currently in Kiev, Ukraine, on a two-day visit, discussed expansion of economic and political relations with Parliament Speaker of Ukraine Ivan Plyushch Friday [12 February].

Plyushch referred to the political situation and economic potentials of the Islamic Republic and stressed the need for promotion of Tehran-Kiev relations and cooperation in the political and economic fields.

He also voiced Ukraine's readiness to implement agreements signed earlier between the two countries in the economic field, and called for starting the Iran-Europe gas pipeline project which is to transit Ukrainian territory.

Plyushch also emphasized the need for establishment of friendship and interparliamentary groups between the two country's parliaments.

Aqazadeh outlined the importance of bilateral cooperation between the two countries, and voiced Tehran's readiness to assist the former Soviet Republic in maintaining its independence particularly in the economic fields.

Aqazadeh who arrived in Kiev on Wednesday, handed Plyushch a message from Iranian Parliament Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri inviting him to visit Iran.

The Ukrainian official thanked for the invitation and hoped to visit Tehran next April.

Last night, the Iranian minister held talks with Ukrainian First Deputy Prime Minister Ihor Yukhnovskyy on cooperation in economic, commercial, scientific, industrial and technical fields.

The two reviewed issues of mutual interest such as the gas pipeline project and establishment of a joint company by the two countries in this connection.

To this end some committees, dealing with banking, oil and gas affairs, have been set up to study the related issues.

Yukhnovskyy also expressed Ukraine's willingness to purchase oil from Iran and provide cereals, industrial goods and mineral materials in return.

He also called for Tehran's investments in the republic for manufacturing airplanes.

Agreement Reached

LD1202205693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1920 GMT 12 Feb 93

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Aleksey Tritsenko for TASS]

[Text] Kiev February 12 TASS—The first shipment of oil from Iran will arrive in Ukraine this March, said Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh who was in Kiev on a three-day working visit.

The minister said agreements on gas supplies have also been reached. One of them envisages the construction of a gas pipeline from Iran to Ukraine and Russia via Azerbaijan. In the future, the pipeline may be used to transport gas to Western Europe, primarily Germany.

Iran, Azerbaijan and Ukraine have set up a joint venture to build the pipeline. Iran and Ukraine will own 45 per cent of the capital and Azerbaijan 10 per cent.

Ukraine will pay for gas and oil supplies both with hard currency and through barter deals.

Iranian Minister Cited

OW1202224293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2009 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, Iran's Oil Minister, told journalists in Kiev on Friday [12 February] that the first lot of Iranian oil will reach Ukraine next March, following up on an agreement made in two days of negotiations with Ukrainian leaders.

Iran will supply 4,000,000 tons of oil to Ukraine, which will cover one tenth of her needs. Ukraine will pay partly in hard currency and partly in kind, with grain and sugar, said Aqazadeh. Because Ukraine has no tanker fleet of her own, the oil will be delivered in Iranian ships.

He also said that construction of an Iran-Europe pipeline will start shortly. Ukraine has undertaken to provide tubes and compressor stations. Once the pipeline is put into operation, Ukraine will have all the gas she needs. The minister also noted that Iran "does not regard itself as a competitor for Russia in fuel shipments to Ukraine because it acts in the framework of international rules of free trade".

Aqazadeh also said that Ukraine and Iran intend to sign numerous agreements next March on cooperation in road, sea, and air transportation.

Aqazadeh referred to press reports in Ukraine that Kiev planned to supply weaponry to Iran in exchange for fuel as an invention.

Plyushch, ROK Ambassador Discuss Cooperation

LD1302093193 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Ivan Plyushch, chairman of the Supreme Council of Ukraine, today received An Hyon-won, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Korea to Ukraine, at the latter's request. [passage omitted] The head of parliament stressed the great significance of the South Korean economic miracle worldwide and the possibility of using this experience in our young state. In organizing and reviving our economy, we in Ukraine aspire to becoming rich by using exactly your formula, Ivan Plyushch said. The chairman of the Supreme Council of Ukraine expressed readiness for broadening and deepening mutually beneficial contacts between the parliaments of both countries and also on a governmental level. [passage omitted]

An Hyon-won proposed setting up in the very near future an association for promoting the development of interparliamentary links between both countries within the framework of the Supreme Council of Ukraine. He said that a trade agreement between the Republic of Korea and Ukraine could be signed as early as in the summer of this year.

Ivan Plyushch supported the guest's proposal and expressed hope that all the intentions would be implemented and that the two countries would further develop their cooperation.

Demonstrators Support Including Sevastopol in Russia

OW1302183593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1704 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A meeting of demonstrators supporting the idea of joining Sevastopol to Russia was held on Saturday in the city square named after Nakhimov. About 3,000 people demanded to abolish moratorium on referendum on Crimea's independence and to hoist the flags of Republic of Crimea above the city council and the regional councils of Sevastopol.

Participants of the meeting addressed chairman of Russian parliament and Russian People's Deputies with a request to assist "in restoration of Russia's jurisdiction over Sevastopol." "Sevastopol should remain the base of the Black Sea Fleet," the address cites.

National Affairs

Defense Official Fired for 'Abusing' Official Position

LD1602220193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2052 GMT 16 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Kiev, 16 Feb—Lieutenant General Ivan Oliynik, head of armaments of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry, has been dismissed for abusing his official position. This was reported today in the evening newscast of Ukrainian television's first channel, citing the Defense Ministry press service.

Parliament To Discuss Appointments to Constitutional Court

OW1602204393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1737 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] One of the main questions before Tuesday's [16 February] opening session of parliament is the confirmation of two deputy chairmen and eight members of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine.

Such an institution still does not exist in Ukraine, and only its chairman has been selected: Leonid Yuzkov, doctor of history and one of the former legal consultants to the parliament and government of Ukraine.

The first attempt at confirming the court's members was made on 20 November 1992 and was unsuccessful. At that time, the deputies discussed ten candidates (five each from the president and the speaker of parliament). Not a single one of these appointees was approved due to the political quarrels that broke out at the session. The

formal reason for the polemics which led to the breakdown of the confirmation procedure was differing interpretations of certain parts of the Ukrainian law on the Constitutional Court. The only underlying reason for the conflict, observers say, was its purely political character. Experts in Kiev suppose that Leonid Kravchuk and Ivan Plyushch, in nominating candidates to the Constitutional Court, did not fully take into account the tension between opposing deputies who had very different ideas about the main goals of the Court.

The so-called "communist majority" in parliament (the liberal press in Kiev subsumes under this heading deputies who were formerly members of the Ukrainian Communist Party, whose activities were banned in August 1991) has not hidden, in the opinion of observers, its interest in selecting court judges who would look favorably upon nullifying the ban on the Ukrainian Communist Party. It is believed in Kiev that in the three months after the first hearings, the positions of "leftists" in the parliament have remained unchanged. Some 242 deputies' signatures have been collected on a petition demanding the ban.

The "democrats" (the People's Rukh [Ukrainian People's Movement for Perestroyka] of Ukraine and other non-socialist factions which are in opposition to Kravchuk), for their part, are insisting on changes in the order of appointments to the Court. They intend to pursue legislative amendments so that members of the Constitutional Court are selected individually in a closed vote and by a two thirds, rather than absolute, majority of deputies.

The democratic factions consider certain appointments to the court made by speaker Ivan Plyushch to be absolutely unacceptable. These include former Ukrainian Prosecutor General Mikhail Potebenko, who sanctioned the arrest of Rukh leader Stepan Khmary, as well as Donetsk region Deputy Albert Korneev, who did not vote for the act on Ukrainian independence adopted at the end of August 1991.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: At Rukh's initiative, public hearings on "the criminality of the Communist Party of Ukraine and communist ideology" are being prepared in Ukraine. The opposition People's Rada (the word refers to a legislative body in old Ukraine—Interfax) has published a special announcement which states that the president and speaker made nominations to the Constitutional Court in violation of the law and "political ethics."

Narodna Rada Blocks Debates

LD1602213193 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] The beginning of the second of four days of plenary sittings of the seventh session of the Supreme Council of Ukraine was marked by irreconcilable political opposition today. If you see elections to the Constitutional Court of Ukraine among the issues on the agenda of the Supreme Council, you can correctly foresee a storm. The stakes are high. The top judiciary is being formed, the political instrument of the state.

The balance and tactics of political forces are well known. The majority is for elections to the court in the proposed composition. The minority, in the form of the People's Council, believes the composition of the candidates to the court to be pro-Communist.

The Narodna Rada decided not to register, and in this way to block the discussion. A number of deputies favored removing the issue from the agenda, and for discussing the most topical economic and social problems instead. All of these heated battles took place even before the official opening of the plenary sitting, which Ivan Plyushch, chairman of Supreme Council, could not do because of the absence of a quorum.

During a break, the chairman proposed that deputies register and continue working without changing the agenda. Also during the break, when Ivan Plyushch stated that he had all grounds for declaring the sitting open, a debate, procedural in form, but deeply political, broke out with new force, caused formally by the fact that the temporary regulations operational today did not give an exact formula for what number of deputies in the hall allows a plenary sitting to be opened.

When deputy Kozarenko, deputy chairman of (?the accounting) commission, began to explain the procedure for voting on candidacies, the Narodna Rada blocked the platform and the presidium. Ivan Plyushch called on them to preserve political calm in the state and to come to an understanding. The presidium of the Supreme Council assembled in an extended composition during the long break.

After the break, nearly two hours [words indistinct] sitting of the accounting commission for electing the Constitutional Court of Ukraine. Deputy Kozarenko reported on the results of this sitting, and then a secret ballot was held, the results of which will be known tomorrow.

Rukh Leader Chornovil Cited

OW1202182993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1501 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Vyacheslav Chornovil, the leader of Ukraine's Rukh [Ukraine People's Movement for Perestroyka] movement, considers that public hearings on crimes committed by the Ukrainian CPSU and Communist Party should take place in the republic. Speaking at a meeting with journalists in Kiev Thursday [11 February], Chornovil announced that Rukh intended to initiate the collection of signatures for a request for Ukraine's parliament to hold these hearings this year.

After declaring his opposition to "witch hunting" and trial, Chornovil appealed to former apparatchiks and

rank and file communists to provide parliament with evidence of criminal activity on the part of the Ukrainian Communist Party.

He also announced that Eastern European nations, particularly Hungary (from which he had just returned from a visit), were genuinely concerned about the increasing prominence of former communists in Ukraine and attacks by more conservative elements among deputies on Leonid Kuchma's reform government.

Rukh Warns of 'Imperial Forces' Out To Revive 'New Union'

WS1602155793 Kiev KHRESHCHATYK in Ukrainian 3 Feb 93 p 2

[Unattributed report from the "Time, Politics, Rukh" column]

[Text] Kiev—The Central Command of the Ukrainian Popular Movement has held a meeting. The Command has adopted the large-scale drive, "The Ukrainian Spring," scheduled to begin in the spring of 1993. The drive will include: the resumed collection of signatures in favor of a referendum on the early dissolution of the Ukrainian Supreme Council; acquainting the populace with the crimes committed by the Communist Party; the possible departure from the Supreme Council by the Rukh faction deputies as well as conducting mass protest actions in case the legislature lifts the ban on the Communist Party, approves the CIS Charter, or succeeds in forcing Kuchma's government to resign; creative consultations with the president and the government on building the Ukrainian state; assisting the Ukrainian Army; promoting the convention of the 2d Ukrainian International Congress; supporting the government-led reforms: developing the Rukh's "The Concept of the Statebuilding," etc.

Zaporizhzhya—The oblast branches of the Rukh, the Ukrainian Republican Party, the Ukrainian Conservative Republican Party, the "Ukrainian State Independence" Association, the "Prosvita" [Education] Association, the Ukrainian Women's Union, and the Ukrainian Officers' Association wrote an open letter to the Ukrainian president. In its authors' opinion, Ukrainian independence is jeopardized by the imperial forces, which want to involve Ukraine in the new union under the disguise of the CIS. Some industrialists and Supreme Council deputies, the letter continued, take advantage of the economic difficulties, which were caused by themselves, and press for the adoption of the CIS Charter. The letter called for the president to refuse to sign the CIS Charter. The authors also demanded that the president fire his representatives who openly defy him, especially the president's representative in Zaporizhzhya Oblast, Mr. Bochkaryov.

Lvov—The Lvov Student Fraternity organized a meeting and a march with torches to mark the 75th Anniversary of the heroic death of Ukrainian patriots who died in the battle with Bolsheviks near Kruty. The meeting was attended by the Lvov Military College cadets.

Odessa—Several hundred private owners of land plots with houses sent a letter to the Ukrainian Supreme Council demanding that the local authorities execute the edict issued by the Council of Ministers on the privatization of such land plots. The letter endorsed the reforms conducted by the Kuchma's government, especially in the sphere of land privatization. The Rukh's local branch supported the demands of the Odessa residents, calling the above edict the first step toward agricultural reforms in Ukraine.

Mine Strikes Threaten Economic Stabilization Plan

PM1202143193 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 10 Feb 93

[By Gennadiy Kondaurov and Li Din Khvan, from the Donbass; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Kondaurov over video of mine installations] The biggest mines in the Ukraine—the Stakhanov, Tsentralnaya, and Rodinskaya mines—are on strike. It was from here that metal workers received high-grade coking coal.

The miners claim that they were forced to down tools because, in their opinion, the government has grossly violated the sector tariff agreements for last year, and has so far declined to get down to discussing with the trade unions the terms of an agreement for the current year.

In other words, the miners are not backing the government measures for a wage freeze to reduce the level of inflation. I must mention that the strike started at the Krasnoarmeyskugol Production Association, where miners' wages are highest. Miners' demands include the demand that mines should not be deprived of their economic autonomy. This is what the government tried to do when, in a recent decree, it established a rigid vertical structure of subordination beginning with mines and ending with the State Committee for Coal.

The miners also passed a vote of no confidence in the city soviet and its chairman, and called for an investigation of their activities. Both Ukrainian mine workers' trade unions—the Independent Trade Union and the Trade Union of Workers in the Mining Industry—are supporting the strikers' demands and have declared a state of prestrike readiness at all the mines in the Donbass. The miners also have the backing of the region's other industrial trade unions. A general warning strike could be called 25 February.

The current miners' strike is the first such strike since the appointment of Leonid Kuchma's new government just over three months ago—a government which describes itself as reformist. The strike presents a serious threat to

the implementation of the government's program to stabilize the Ukrainian economy.

Donetsk Basin Continues Strike

OW1202183193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1501 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Miners from Western Ukraine, the Dnepropetrovsk and Lugansk regions have announced their readiness to start striking in support of demands by Donetsk basin miners.

Deputy chairman of the inter-regional association of the independent miners' union, Valeriy Babich, told an INTERFAX correspondent that miners from the Velikomostovskaya pit at the Ukrazapadugol association would join the strike by Donetsk miners on Friday [12 February]. Similar information was heard at Donetsk strike committee headquarters from Dnepropetrovsk pit builders from department No.3 of Dneproshakhtstroi and miners from the Pervomaiskugol association in the Lugansk region.

Three pits in the city of Dimitrov (Donetsk region) - Tsentralnaya, Stakhanova and Rodinskaya - have been on strike already for over a week in order for coal enterprises to gain business independence, to remove limitations on pay and pensions and fulfil tariff agreements between the government and unions as part of social guarantees.

One demand of the miners, involving an investigation of the financial activities of the local authorities, has already been satisfied. Babich informed that in accordance with a ruling by the Donetsk regional administration, the appropriate commission had already been created.

In addition to this, Babich said that on Thursday in Kiev consultations among representatives for the striking miners and the Ukrainian Ministry for the Coal Industry started on the topic of coal prices.

Deputy Premier Regrets Strike

LD1202230393 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] Yuliy Ioffe, Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister for Issues of the Fuel and Energy Complex, today gave a news conference in Kiev. Journalists were told about the state of the fuel and energy complex in Ukraine today and also the result of the Ukrainian-Iranian summit talks. However, the vast majority of journalists were interested in something else: When and under what conditions will the Donbass miners end their strike?

[Begin Ioffe recording] [passage indistinct] Now I have been talking to the trade unions, and I do not understand why they are so aggressive on this issue. There is nothing to divide in Ukraine. It is only possible to find something by way of working and manufacturing goods. That is why, should there be any conflicts in the coal industry, this will give absolutely nothing apart from deterioration and the loss of pit assets and jobs, because no one will find money for reconstruction, we simply have not got it today. [end recording]

Those who do not understand this and who are inciting another wave of strike struggle have to realize that these appeals could lead Ukraine to final economic chaos, Yuliy Ioffe stressed.

Further Ioffe Comment

OW1302181893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1702 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Yuliy Ioffe has rejected the demands of the coal miners' unions, saying he "does not understand their aggressiveness." Commenting, at a press conference on Friday [12 February], on the demand of the Donetsk Basin trade unions and mine managements that the Decree on the Remuneration of Labor be suspended, Ioffe said the document raised the miners' wages rather than lowering them.

According to Ioffe, wages were only reduced for the striking mines' managerial personnel. He said that last December, before the decree was issued, the head of the labor and wages department at the Tsentralnaya mine of the Krasnoarmeiskugol association was paid 189,215 karbovantsy, the accountant at the Rodninskaya mine, 300,831, and the same mine's secretary, 68,804 karbovantsy.

Now the managerial personnel's wages have drastically gone down, Ioffe said. He believes the strikes were provoked by the mines' managements and those "who had their wages really cut down in January." He said the government is determined to stick to its policy of keeping the wages linked to productivity.

Commenting on the unions' demand for independence for the mines, Ioffe said, "State property should be managed by the state."

Miners Call Off Strike

OW1502213293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1918 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Monday [15 February] the strike committee of three mines in the city of Dimitrov in the Donetsk region of Ukraine ruled to stop the strike and return to work at 4 pm. The strike at these mines started on February 5.

As Chairman of the Miners' Independent Trade Union's interregional committee Mikhail Volynets told INTERFAX, an agreement was reached with the Cabinet to establish an average salary of 120,000 karbovanets. He

said the decision to hold a republican warning strike of miners on February 26 remains valid.

Vice-Premier for fuel-energy complex Yuliy Ioffe told a press conference Friday that after last December the government issued the decree on payment for work, the miners' salary did not lower. At the same time, the salary of the administrative management personnel decreased several times.

Further on News Conference

LD1602132093 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] A news conference has been held for Ukrainian and foreign journalists at the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. Deputy Prime Minister Yuliy Ioffe, Labor Minister Mykhaylo Kaskevych, and (Mykola Tuhan), chairman of the State Committee for Coal Industry, took part in it. Problems of the coal mining industry were discussed.

Yuliy Ioffe gave two reasons to explain the sharp decline in fuel extraction over the past three years. First, enterprises are in a very bad state. During recent years there was almost no capital investment allocated for the development of the coal industry in Donbass. Suffice it to say that not a single mine was built in Donbass in the past 25 years.

The second reason is unsatisfactory materials and technical supply. To correct the situation, a program for development of the coal industry up to the year 2005 has been developed in Ukraine, whose implementation will make it possible to increase coal extraction up to 160 million tonnes. To do that it is planned to commission six new mines.

Ukraine has sufficient fuel deposits - according to calculations of scientists there are still billions of tons of it underground.

Kravchuk Visits Lugansk Oblast Mine, Opposes Strike

LD1602221893 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Excerpts] The nonresolution of economic problems and the sharpening of political, social, and production problems, are among the many reasons for President Leonid Kravchuk's visit to the Sukhodilska-Skhidna mine of the KrasnodonVuhillya production association in Lugansk oblast. [passage omitted]

[Begin Kravchuk recording] It is not only that conditions are complex. The conditions were always complex. There is not the reward they deserve in these conditions, and one cannot buy for their money, which is a lot by our measures, that which one could buy formerly for a little money. This is the main thing. But the conditions—people have got used to these conditions of work, and do not say anything about them. They say only one thing: Why can't they buy, even for a lot of money, that which is needed for renewing one's ideological spent forces [as heard], and, for example, something for [word indistinct], for life, for building. This is the main thing. [end recording]

The program for the development of the coal industry has been created, and already signed by Leonid Kravchuk. Speaking about it in more detail during a meeting with labor collectives, the president noted that implementation of the program will not be an easy matter. There are technical and organizational matters, which are not on a global scale, and although they are resolved fairly easily, (?but) being unresolved, they irritate people very much.

Incidentally, issues also exist, which require resolution at a legislative level. Leonid Kravchuk agreed with the justice of a package of demands expressed by representatives of the trade unions, in particular one about the need to sign tariff agreements with the miners, which would make it possible to implement social programs as well. Incidentally, the president emphasized that in spite of existing difficulties, he does not believe a strike to be an acceptable form of mutual influence today, especially when economic demands are potentially capable of turning into political ones.

Nationalist Militants To Send Mercenaries to Hotspots

LD1602135693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1251 GMT 16 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Nekrasova]

[Text] Lvov February 16 TASS—Ukraine has become "too small" for militants of the Ukrainian National Assembly organisation and it plans to send mercenaries to hotspots in the former Soviet Union and Yugoslavia.

One should not wonder "if our guys appear in the near future in Abkhazia and Yugoslavia, southern Russia and Azerbaijan", lawmaker Oleg Vitovich, who heads a unit of the assembly, told the first regional conference of the organisation held in Lvov, western Ukraine.

The assembly, nicknamed "home-bred neo-Nazis" in Lvov region, counts some 4,000 militants throughout the country. They became notorious after numerous brawls and fights and after seizing churches when a dispute emerged between various confessions in the city of Rovno.

The armed "neo-Nazis" went to "protect Ukrainians from Russians and Moldovans" when a conflict erupted in the breakaway Dniester region of Moldova.

The current conference outlined a new priority: The creation of a super-ethnic system inside the Commonwealth in which Ukraine is to become the centre of eastern Slavs.

The National Assembly is not the pioneer in sending mercenaries to various hotspots. The Liberal-Democratic Party of Russia, headed by nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, sent a group of "kamikaze" to support Saddam Husayn in his fight with U.S.-led allied forces. Russian mercenaries were also reported to be fighting in former Yugoslavia, as well as in Nagorno-Karabakh, Abkhazia and other hotspots on the territory of the former Soviet Union.

Politicians, Military Back Defense Minister Morozov

PM1502094393 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 Feb 93 p 3

[Vladimir Bogdanovskiy report under "Events and Commentaries" rubric: "Someone Must Be Saved, But Who: Minister or Army?"]

[Text] Lvov—Calls for Colonel General Konstyantyn Morozov, Ukrainian minister of defense, to be saved can be heard frequently nowadays on Ukrainian radio and television. They are being addressed to the people by the leaders of certain political parties and by military personnel.

This began after a group of Ukrainian people's deputies (more than 150 people) put to the Supreme Soviet a demand for the resignation of Col. Gen. Konstyantyn Morozov. ARMIYA UKRAINY, the newspaper of the Carpathian Military District, recently published a lengthy open letter-appeal to Ukrainian People's Deputy Col. Valeriy Izmalkov. It was entitled "Hands Off Col. Gen. K. Morozov." It had been signed by a plenum of the Ukrainian Officers' Union, by the Coordinating Council of the Ukrainian Officers' Union Organization of the 10 Western Ukrainian oblasts on whose territory the district's troops are stationed, and by the journalist collective of the ARMIYA UKRAINY Editorial Office. They believe that Col. V. Izmalkov's interview in KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI and also the letter from the group of people's deputies to the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet are full of unjust accusations and irresponsible conclusions about the supposedly critical situation which has taken shape in the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

The authors of the appeal do not set themselves the aim of investigating what is really happening in the Ukrainian Armed Forces or the reasons why the crime situation has deteriorated recently and the quality of combat training has dropped. They merely appeal: Let us save the Ukrainian defense minister!

Carpathian Helicopter Regiment Disbanded

LD1302175993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1732 GMT 13 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Nekrasova]

[Text] Lvov February 13 TASS—Ukrainian Defence Minister Konstyantyn Morozov has issued a decree to disband a helicopter regiment of the Carpathian Military District stationed near the Ukrainian-Polish state border in the Kalinov settlement.

Four regiment officers and the regiment commander for long time trespassed the border to transport to Poland Pakistanis, Indians and Romanians for hard currency. They told the investigation six flights have been made.

Socialist Rally Takes Place in Donetsk 13 Feb

LD1402113493 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 2000 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] A rally organized by local socialists took place in Donetsk on 13 February.

It was held mainly under the slogans of the restoration of a single economic space within the framework of the former USSR and a struggle against nationalism spreading in Donbass.

The resolution also included demands for structuring Ukraine on a federation and territorial land basis, and granting the status of state language to Russian, as well as issues of the socioeconomic aspect.

Some speeches delivered expressed extremist views.

Declares No Confidence in Kravchuk

LD1302151193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1439 GMT 13 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Gordeyev]

[Text] Donetsk, Eastern Ukraine, February 13 TASS—Rallies were held today in all major towns of the Donetsk region in eastern Ukraine.

Participants in the Donetsk rally, held on the initiative of the regional organization of the Socialist Party and International Movement of Donbass, insist on the enhanced role of people's deputies councils, a possibility of regions to solve their problems by themselves and a federative system in Ukraine.

The rally called for the single economic and information space of all former Soviet republics and adopted a statement in address of [as received] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk.

The statement says, in particular, "Bearing in mind, you, being the Ukrainian president, did not fulfill your pre-election promises, we give you the vote of no confidence and demand an account to electors of the Donetsk region".

Sevastopol Resolution Prevents Holding of Congress

LD1602113193 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 0100 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] To prevent the holding of the all-Ukrainian Congress in Sevastopol and raise the State flag of the

Republic of the Crimea over the building of the City Council and the district councils and lower the flag of Ukraine—these demands addressed to the People's Deputies of Sevastopol and the Crimea, as well as to the representative of Ukraine's president, Ivan Yermakov, are contained in a resolution adopted at a multi-thousand meeting which took place in Sevastopol last Saturday [13 February]. As reported by an official of the press center of the Black Sea Fleet, Serhiy Ozerov, also adopted at the meeting was an appeal to the people's deputies of Russia and speaker of parliament of the Russian Federation, Ruslan Khasbulatov, calling for a decision to be taken on the status of Sevastopol. The appeal also calls upon the leadership of Russia to begin talks between Russia, Ukraine and the Republic of the Crimea in order to solve the Crimean problem, taking into account the wishes of the residents of this peninsula.

Belarus

New Idea of State Border Protection Formulated

WS1502114093 Minsk NARODNAYA GAZETA in Belarusian 3 Feb 93 p 1

[Report by BELINFORM correspondent Iryna Gorbacheva under the "We and Our Neighbors" rubric: "The Border Should Not Separate Us"]

[Text] At the session of the collegium of the Chief Administration of Border Troops at the Belarusian Cabinet of Ministers, a new conception of border protection was approved.

This document foresees no changes—the same engineering installations and the same outposts—at the Belarusian-Polish border. But the Belarusian and Polish parties project the upgrading of control systems.

But we border some other countries too. For example, we are planning to organize two border customs posts and a subunit of patrol boats on the Belarusian-Ukrainian border in response to Ukraine's unilateral decision to open customs posts at the Ukrainian-Belarusian border.

The further deployment of border units is under way in Smargon [Grodno Oblast] and Vetrino [Vitebsk Oblast]. But the traditional methods of border guarding are out of the question. Our border should not separate relatives and break the established economic ties. This is the reason why border guards, together with militia and customs services, should register passports and transport documents, but not allow border crossings in prohibited places.

Parliament Examining Draft Law on Alternative Service

PM1602130193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Feb 93 p 2

[Valeriy Kovalev report from "From Our News Bureau" roundup: "There Will Be Alternative Service in Belarus"]

[Text] Minsk—A draft law "On Alternative (Labor) Service" has been examined in its first reading at a recent Belarusian Supreme Soviet session.

The right to perform alternative service will be offered only to citizens with religious and pacifist beliefs. It must be of a purely civilian nature, and it cannot be linked even indirectly with training to conduct combat operations, or with carrying and using weapons.

Border Troops Colonel on Borders With Baltic States

WS1602151493 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian 3 Feb 93 p 1

[Interview with Colonel Vyachaslau Uladzimiravich Auramenka, deputy chief of the Headquarters of the Chief Administration of Belarusian Border Troops, by ZVYAZDA non staff correspondent Uladzimir Nestyarovich: "State Border Should Not Be an Iron Curtain"; date and place not given—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] What is going on along the border area of Belarus with the Baltic states? What are the functions of our border guards there? Our non staff correspondent has met with Colonel Vyachaslau Uladzimiravich Auramenka, deputy chief of the Headquarters of the Chief Administration of Belarusian Border Troops, who has recently come back from Smorgon [Grodno Oblast, Western Belarus], and asked him to answer some questions.

[Nestsyarovich] Vyachaslau Uladzimiravich, how are our border troops going to guard our border with Lithuania?

[Auramenka] Let us define the terms. Your word "guard" does not suit the situation. Currently, we can talk only about border control. True border guarding is performed along the Belarusian-Polish border area. Our border troops have been stationed there for a long time, and the border is equipped with the corresponding engineering installations. As for the border with Lithuania (as well as with Latvia), Belarus has only customs posts there and not a state border. These notions are quite different.

[Nestsyarovich] In this case, what do the border troops do at the Belarusian-Lithuanian border?

[Auramenka] They are fulfilling the decree of the Belarusian Cabinet of Ministers which states that Belarusian border guards should check documents and allow individuals, transport means, and cargo to pass through the border in the established places. For what purpose? To protect Belarus's economic interests. It is a well known fact that a lot of natural resources, agricultural, and industrial products are illegally exported from our Republic. Besides, a transparent border with the Baltic states makes it possible for the citizens of third countries, especially from South-East Asia, to use the territory of Belarus as a staging post for their illegal trips to Western Europe. Some days ago, there was a report about an incident at the "Kamennyy Log" control point, which is situated in Oshmyany Rayon. Militia officers had stopped a "Zhyguli" car owned by a citizen from Lithuania. In the car, the guards found two Kalashnikov assault rifles, cartridges, RGD-5 and F1 hand grenades. Among the passengers of the car, there were several previously convicted persons who had been sought by the police. I also have information about drug smuggling.... Border

guards are to aid their militia colleagues from the customs post to prevent illegal acts at our borders....

[Nestsyarovich] What about any concrete results?

[Auramenka] Judge for yourself. Over 120 cars usually pass through the "Losha" and "Kotlayka" control points (Grodno Oblast) in 24 hours time. On 14 January, border troops together with the customs and militia located special duty squads on the four roundabout roads. During two hours, they checked 22 cars and trucks. Eight vehicles turned and drove away before they were registered by the duty squads. The drivers were reluctant to meet with the border guards. This week, we have prevented the export from Belarus of more than 500 liters of diesel fuel and 300 kilos of copper.

Nevertheless, it is very difficult to block the roads for smugglers. The Belarusian Cabinet of Ministers has issued a decree which states that there are special places for crossing Belarusian state borders with Latvia and Lithuania. There are 20 of them. But we have registered 105 roads along our border with Lithuania. Still, it does not mean that border guards are easy to cheat. Our officers have a rich experience in operational and investigation work, in border work.... New borders are specific and we should get used to the new conditions.

[Nestsyarovich] Are there any restrictions for Belarusians?

[Auramenka] No, there are no restrictions either for the population living in the border areas or for people from other countries. But I cannot yet tell you anything about the order of crossing the border before the delimitation and demarcation of our border with Latvia and Lithuania is carried out. Currently, Belarusian, Lithuanian, and Latvian citizens do not need visas for their trips to the neighboring states. I am sure that our state borders should not be iron curtains. We should only protect the interests of our people.... It is necessary to define the status of out state borders with the Baltic states and the status of Belarusian border troops.

Shushkevich Leaves for Vilnius To Visit Brazauskas

OW1602210893 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1936 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chairman of Belarus Supreme Soviet Stanislav Shushkevich is leaving for Vilnius Tuesday [16 February] night to personally congratulate Algirdas Brazauskas with his victory at the presidential elections and take part in the festivities marking the 75th anniversary of the reinstatement of Lithuania's statehood.

The press service of Belarus Supreme Soviet informed BALTFAX that prior to his departure for Vilnius, Stanislav Shushkevich had forwarded a congratulatory telegram to President-elect Algirdas Brazauskas in which he expressed hope that under his leadership "independent Lithuania will achieve success and prosperity."

U.S. Envoy on Results of One Year Diplomatic Mission

WS1502115493 Minsk DOBRY VECHAR in Russian 3 Feb 93 p 1

[Unattributed report under the "Capital's Chronicles" rubric: "David Swartz: 'Our Embassy Has Over Fulfilled Its One-Year Plan.'"]

[Text] On 1 February 1993, David Swartz, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the United States to the Republic of Belarus, organized a press conference devoted to the one year anniversary of the U.S. diplomatic mission in Belarus. He acquainted the journalists with the results of his work and said: "1992 was a year of the development of Belarusian-U.S. relations. One of our embassy's tasks was the promotion of different contacts with your country. I am quite sure that we have over fulfilled our task."

Answering a question about possible changes in the U.S. policy towards Belarus and other CIS countries in connection with the change in administration at the White House, David Swartz told the journalists that he does not foresee any substantial changes in the U.S. policy towards both Belarus and the CIS countries. Speaking on the deficiency of American investments in the Belarusian economy, the ambassador remarked on the insufficient knowledge of Belarus by industrial circles of the United States. At the same time, he mentioned that such big companies as Pepsi Cola, IBM, and Eastman Kodak have already invested their capital in Belarus.

When asked how he assessed the state of human rights in Belarus, Mr. Swartz pointed out that some time ago, members of Congress had acquainted themselves with the report on the human rights situation in Belarus. "This report was rather positive," the ambassador said.

Speaking on the issue of the place of Belarus in U.S. foreign policy, David Swartz said that the United States had already signed four intergovernmental agreements with Belarus on the issues of decreasing the danger and threat of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. Belarus was the only CIS country to sign such an agreement with the United States.

Parliament Ratifies CIS Customs Agreement

LD1602225593 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] Before going into recess the Belarusian parliament was the first to ratify an agreement on the principles of the customs policy in the CIS. This is a truly extraordinary event in the life of the Commonwealth countries. For example, the Belarussian motor vehicle works alone has over 1,000 suppliers, and over 80 percent of the

output of the Belarusian vehicle, machine-building and light industry goes to markets of the Commonwealth, mainly to Russia.

Mikhail Marinich, first deputy chairman of the Belarusian State Committee for Foreign Economic Ties believes that the ratification of this document by Belarus gives us the right to set up a customs union, which would allow our producers to supply each other with materials and components freely and without customs duties and tariffs; in a word, would allow the economic space to be preserved.

Official Reports on Negotiations With IMF

OW1602204993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1733 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Yevgeniy Bogomazov, who heads the secretariat of international financial crediting organizations of the Belarus government, told INTERFAX in an exclusive interview that next April a memorandum on the country's economic policy would be worked out and endorsed by the International Monetary Fund's Board of Directors.

He said that at the latest round of negotiations with the IMF from February 1 to 5, Belarus submitted "full preliminary information on her intentions." An agreement had been worked out, he said, with the IMF negotiators that the budget deficit would not exceed 4.3 percent of gross national product. (This was the case in 1992 - IF [INTERFAX]). But IMF experts, he continued, had insisted that subsidies on farming products had to be discontinued as early as in the first quarter of 1993.

The government expert told INTERFAX that "Belarus let the IMF know her policy on the national currency." He said that the IMF knew when Belarus intended to quit the ruble zone. Bogomazov also said that the government had a program to print Belarusian currency. "This is probably being done," said he and added "but Belarus will not do this behind the back of Russia, her main partner." He insisted that Russia and Belarus pursued a coordinated policy in this field.

Bogomazov thinks that by the end of 1993 Belarus will be able to receive a rehabilitating $90 to $100 million loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development which will finance purchases of most important imported goods. The term of the credit will be 17 years, payments will start after five years, and the rate maximal, 7.5 percent. The purchases are expected to be made through international auctions. The expert said that Belarus would use a total of $40 million to buy herb and pesticides for agriculture, equipment for the food industry, and technologies for vegetable oil production. The same amount will be used to buy engineering machinery and $20 million spent on medical equipment and medicinal drugs.

Bogomazov said that as they are approved, the IBRD will also finance 32 local projects, notably in the forestry, timber, and chemical industries.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: Belarus became a full member of the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development on July 7, 1992.

Moldova

Foreign Ministry Protests Planned 14th Army Drills

AU1602215593 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 2000 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Bogdan Alexandru report from Chisinau]

[Text] The Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Republic of Moldova remitted a note today to the Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Russian Federation concerning the military drills of the 14th Army, which, according to an item printed in the 15 February issue of a daily published in Tiraspol, are scheduled to take place in the Dniester area.

Moldovan officials have attempted to make Russian military and political authorities renounce or, at least, postpone those drills, but so far their efforts have yielded no results.

According to the Moldovan Foreign Ministry, the attempts currently made by the leaders of the 14th Army are violating the stipulations of the Moldovan-Russian convention of 21 July 1992, signed by Presidents Mircea Snegur and Boris Yeltsin, as well as the decision issued on 27 May 1992 by the Moldovan Parliament on Certain Measures To Settle the Situation in the Dniester Region, forbidding the 14th Army to undertake any action—such as drills or deployment of its forces—without the consent of Moldova's Government.

The note of the Foreign Affairs Ministry says, quote, considering the complex situation in the eastern rayons, we express our concern over the decision of the leaders of the 14th Army, and we regard that decision as a step that could lead to the destabilization of the situation and create new tension in that region, unquote.

Copies of the note have been sent to high authorities of CSCE, NATO, and other international organizations.

IZVESTIYA Profiles Parliamentary Speaker Lucinschi

PM1702103593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Feb 93 p 4

[Correspondent Svetlana Gamova article under the "Personalities" rubric: "Moldova Pinning Hopes of Civil Peace on Lucinschi"]

[Text] After a prolonged struggle between parliamentary factions, which brought Moldova's supreme legislative body to a state of impasse, the leadership was forced to resign. Petru Lucinschi has now been elected chairman of the Moldovan parliament.

P. Lucinschi is 52 years old. He was born into a peasant family in a Moldovan village. He graduated with an honors degree from the Humanities Department of Chisinau University. Then he became first secretary of the Moldavian Komsomol [Communist Youth League] Central Committee, engaged in party work, and was appointed second secretary of the Tajik Communist Party Central Committee. In 1989 the growing national liberation movement in Moldova, represented by the Moldovan People's Front, made one attempt after another to bring down the conservative ruling elite of the Moldavian Communist Party Central Committee. At the same time, there were numerous street marches in the spring, appealing to P. Lucinschi to return home to Moldova. National patriotic rallies in the fall welcomed the new first secretary as a man who supported the movement of the intelligentsia, which was the driving force behind the People's Front; the republic's gaining its statehood; and the revival of Moldova's national culture and language.

In 1990, P. Lucinschi stood for the post of Moldovan Supreme Soviet chairman but lost to M. Snegur. Then he went to Moscow. After the August coup, as secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Lucinschi expressed doubts about returning to politics. But in 1992, when events in the Dniester Region were at their peak, he was appointed Moldovan ambassador to the Russian Federation.

His second return home and subsequently soaring political career are no accident. The popularity of the far right and the far left has fallen off sharply. Appeals to become part of Romania or, conversely, the CIS have failed to produce a response from the people. Lucinschi is closer to the centrists, led by Snegur, and to the president's confident policy of maintaining independence and developing multilateral ties, especially traditional ties with the East.

In this situation, P. Lucinschi's election as chairman of parliament signals a new stage in the young state's sociopolitical life. In his election program, the future chairman stressed the unacceptability of methods of force in dealing with problems in the Dniester and Gagauz regions. Political dialogue is the only possible way.

Fraternal relations with Romania are well defined. In P. Lucinschi's opinion, the Russian official authorities recognize the Republic of Moldova's indivisibility and integrity. Relations with Moscow should be guided by this. As Russia's 14th Army, stationed in the Dniester Region, remains a stumbling block in the development of these relations, the chairman of parliament could not avoid this issue. "The schedule for the withdrawal of the 14th Army," he said, "will depend on the stability of the domestic political situation in the republic." The new chairman's views on relations with the CIS—or at least the views he has expressed in parliament—coincide with the line taken by the Moldovan leadership: They can only be economic.

One interesting detail. P. Lucinschi was nominated by supporters of the opposition—the People's Front. Even before the vote, he was guaranteed support by the opposition parliamentary majority—the agrarians. His past in the party has proved to be no impediment. The former nominated him with the reservation that not all Communists are bad, and the latter were probably impressed by this. National patriots believe that all is not lost and that, as a member of the intelligentsia, P. Lucinschi cannot fail to take the idea of unity between the two Romanian peoples to heart. Supporters of orientation toward the CIS believe that, under Lucinschi, there will be no obstacles to building ties with the former republics.

As far as the president of Moldova is concerned, in P. Lucinschi he has not only gained strong support in parliament, but also a possible rival in the future presidential elections.

Parliament Chairman Meets Dniester Deputies

OW1602222093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1930 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Petru Lucinschi, Chairman of the Moldovan Parliament, had a meeting behind closed doors with a group of Dniester deputies who attend the session of the country's Parliament. The INTERFAX reporter was told by reliable sources that they discussed ways to resolve the conflict on the east bank of the Dniester and the legal status of the area.

The sources say that in Lucinschi's view the situation in the country has radically changed following changes in the Parliament leadership. Chisinau, he feels, is now prepared to make serious concessions and compromise on the status of the east bank of the Dniester.

Lucinschi warned, however, that a meaningful dialog between Chisinau and Tiraspol is impossible unless the integrity of Moldova is preserved and the idea of a federal structure of the country abandoned. The Speaker was confident that a peaceful solution of the conflict will be found.

Parliament Discusses Schedule, Foreign Activities

AU1602133893 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1116 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] Chisinau ROMPRES 16/2/1993—Petru Lucinschi, newly elected speaker of Moldova's Parliament, presided over a Monday, February 15, sitting of the presidium of this forum, in which part of the schedule of the legislative body was discussed, including activities abroad.

Victor Puscasu, deputy speaker of Moldova's Parliament, read out a draft decision on a declaration President Mircea Snegur made on 24 December 1992, asking for the drafting of the Constitution and its endorsement through a referendum. The draft act also refers to a priority in defining the special status of the eastern and southern districts of the Republic of Moldova. During discussions it was mentioned that the said act had a general character, overlooking essential aspects of the issues it deals with.

Parliament Calls For Draft of Constitution by March

OW1602181093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1421 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Moldovan parliament on Tuesday [16 February] passed a resolution according to which the constitutional commission headed by President Mircea Snegur must present the draft of the republic's new constitution to deputies for debate before March 1993.

The document pointed out that the republic's independence and sovereignty may be confirmed only by adopting the Basic Law.

Provisions exist for the draft constitution to be submitted for nationwide discussion after approval by parliament and, after this, for final approval at a referendum.

Parliament will continue to sit until March 12. In the intermittent period deputies are to approve the 1993 budget, discuss the government's immediate plan of action, and pass both the privatization program and law on pay at their second hearing. Draft documents on the legal status of the left bank of the Dniestr and Gagauzian-populated areas must also be reviewed and passed in the near future.

Gagauzia Rejects Moldovan Draft Law on Region

OW1402160093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1324 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The parliament of the self-proclaimed Gagauz Republic has rejected the draft law on the self-governed territory of Gagauz Yeri, proposed by the Moldovan parliament.

Gagauzia has its own plan for defining the status of the predominantly Gagauz districts which envisages the delegation of additional powers to the local government and legalizes the state bodies of the "Gagauz Republic as a part of the Federative Republic of Moldova".

The Gagauz parliament believes that self-government in the Gagauz Republic should be "based on a Gagauz constitution within the limits of the powers, delegated to it by Moldova." On Friday night, Gagauz deputies announced that they would take part in the discussion of the Gagauz issue in the Moldovan parliament on the condition that the discussion is based on their proposals.

Republic Not To Participate in Forming CIS Court

AU1202200293 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1800 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] Mr. Mircea Snegur, president of the Republic of Moldova, believes that it is inopportune to send representatives to participate in the proceedings of the group of experts for drawing up the draft accord regarding the creation of the Interstate Justice Court of the CIS community, our correspondent to Chisinau reported.

In the message of response sent to the coordinator of the working group of the CIS committee, it is specified that as a member of the United Nations, Moldova recognizes the status of the International Justice Court and does not deem it necessary to participate in the activity of another court with similar functions such as the planned Interstate Justice Court of the CIS members countries, which is to solve national, political, and territorial conflicts.

Prime Minister Comments on Economic Prospects

OW1602204693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1735 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Prime Minister Andrei Sangeli is forecasting a complete halt in the fall in productivity in all sectors in the Moldovan economy towards the end of the first half of the year. In an exclusive interview with INTERFAX, he said that 1993 would be a watershed year for the republic's economy.

The prime minister considered the indicators for the first month of the year to be proof of a real tendency towards the achievement of economic aims. "Some growth in productivity can even be seen in some sectors compared with January last year," he said. He gave the furniture and food industries as two examples.

Overall productivity output would, he estimated, reach 130 Bn rubles this year. "This will be 13% more than last year, but less than the 1991 level," he said.

Sangeli was of the view that economic stability would assist the process of restoring links with former Soviet republics and the transition to the market economy. "Privatization," he said, "would take place gradually so as to avoid any negative social consequences." The prime minister pointed out that there were now also "premises that the slump in agricultural productivity may also be nearing an end." He said that all necessary cultivation work had been completed well on time and that winter crops were "in excellent condition." Sangeli announced that around 10 billion rubles had been set aside for springtime cultivation. Agreement had been reached with Russia, Belarus and other CIS nations on the supply of the necessary fertilizers, equipment and fuel for this money. The prime minister expressed the hope that gross productivity for the agrarian sector this year would increase by 19-20% compared with last.

Today's collective farms had, in the opinion of the prime minister, exhausted their potential and must be replaced by joint stock companies and other forms of ownership. He was in favor of maintaining the state order, but "in a form which differed from the socialist one." The government, Sangeli said, intended to offer holdings and collective farm enterprises a state order so as to supply the market with the necessary produce. He said that Moldova required 850,000 tons of grain products, 850,000 tons of milk and 300,000 tons of meat per year. In return for this the government would provide farm holdings with 80 percent of their electricity, fuel, fertilizer and herbicide requirements.

The prime minister stressed that the positive indicators in the republic's national economy were due primarily to the restoration of economic ties with former Soviet republics and the better organization of bank transactions with Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and other Commonwealth states. He further emphasized the role being played by current negotiations between Moldova and these states.

Regarding the political situation in Moldova and the likelihood of another armed conflict in the republic, Sangeli said: "While the current government forms the nation's leadership the guns will remain silent."

Republic's Economic Ties, Foreign Trade Viewed

AU1602112093 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1001 GMT 16 Feb

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 16/2/1993—The number of countries having economic relations with the Republic of Moldova doubled in 1992, writes COTIDIANUL. 71.7 percent of Moldova's exported goods go to Romania, followed by Bulgaria, Germany, Turkey, Poland, the United States, adds the said daily. According to customs statements, Moldova's export brought in no more than 30 million dollars in 1992 as 70 percent of Moldova's economic exchanges were made on a barter basis.

Joint ventures are expected to become a strong point of Moldova's foreign trade, although the profit of the existing ones has been very low so far. Only 86 from the registered 172 economic units in which foreign capital was put, have been operational. Most of them are selling foodstuffs imported from Turkey, Egypt, Algeria, Greece.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Returns From Visit to Egypt

LD1702120993 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 0700 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] President Nursultan Nazarbayev and his wife returned to Alma-Ata today after their visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt. Arriving with him were members of the state delegation: First Deputy Prime Minister Davlet Sembayev; Nurtay Abykayev, head of the Apparatus of the President and the Cabinet of Ministers; Foreign Minister Tuleutay Suleymenov; Education Minister Shaysultan Shayakhmetov; Seilbek Shaukhamanov, head of the Kzyl-Orda Oblast Administration; Ratbek Nasynbay Uly, chief mufti of the Spiritual Administration of the Muslims of Kazakhstan; sculptor Shotan Makhanov; and writer Hoshadara Soldani.

The delegation was met at the airport by Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko and other officials.

Views Islam, Iran, CIS Issues

LD1602204793 Alma-Ata KAZTAG in Russian 1200 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Excerpts] The official part of Nursultan Nazarbayev's visit to Egypt ended on 15 February. [passage omitted] At a news conference late on Sunday [14 February] evening for local and foreign journalists, the leader of Kazakhstan stressed that this was the first visit to Arab countries in the history of the young sovereign state, and moreover, Egypt was consciously chosen for this owing to its role in the region. [passage omitted]

Commenting on fundamentalist trends in Islam, at the request of journalists, Nursultan Nazarbayev expressed his sharply negative attitude toward this phenomenon and toward any attempts to spread Islamic extremism. He cited the sad experience of events in Tajikistan as an example. The transition to such trends is throwing the Muslim peoples back into the Middle Ages. "Islam is the religion of humanism and fraternity among people." It is precisely this essential feature of Islam that has to be conveyed to the people by the ministers of religion. The president said that a group of Kazakh students will be sent to study at the Muslim university Al-Azhar with a view to training highly qualified specialists in this field. Also, an accord was reached during conversations with President Husni Mubarak on creating an Islamic center in Alma-Ata.

Speaking of his recent visit to Iran, Nazarbayev expressed the view that a dialogue has to be held with the leadership of that country. "Certain shifts in the direction of openness are taking place there, and the international community must support this." At the same time the president categorically denied that Kazakhstan had supplied certain fissile substances to Iran.

Touching on the question of a possible mediatory role for Kazakhstan in settling Egyptian-Iranian relations, which have recently become strained, he said that he himself raised this issue both at the talks in Cairo and during the meetings in Tehran. "I am ready," the president stressed, "to make my contribution, and I hope that with goodwill on both sides I can succeed in this."

The president of Kazakhstan had the following to say on the current state of affairs in the CIS: "Political pride has overtaken economic need, because there can be no independence or sovereignty without a sound economic foundation. Our economies were closely tied to one another for 74 years, and the rupture of these relations has led to a substantial fall in production. For this reason I have constantly advocated not dragging anyone into the CIS, but creating a normal commonwealth with those who want it. Only two states of the former republics of the USSR—Russia and Kazakhstan—are able to live independently, without depending on the others. But the main thing is that the peoples of the former Soviet Union have no reason to fight and wage war. On the contrary, they have elaborated a common mentality. While Europe, and North and South America, are uniting to the good of their economies, we are losing what we had and what we currently have."

Nevertheless, Nursultan Nazarbayev expressed satisfaction with the results of the last meeting in Minsk, where "seven states signed the commonwealth charter, seven states signed the treaty on a banking union of the ruble zone, and seven states advocated a single coordinated defense. It is these seven states that should form the backbone of the CIS, and let the others carry on: Time will pass, and we'll see. Many of them have already realized that they have nowhere to go."

"As regards Kazakhstan," the president stressed, "we are going to build good, long-term strategic relations with Russia regardless of everything. This is in the interests of both the Russian and the Kazakh people, in our common interests. After many years of living together we should not be digging up the negative factors in our history, but finding more that is positive ..."

On completing the official part of the visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Kazakhstan delegation has left for a two-day tour of the country.

Nazarbayev Consents To Lead 'People's Unity' Union

PM1702115993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Feb 93 First Edition p 7

[Sergey Skorokhodov report: "Party for the President"]

[Text] Alma-Ata—President Nursultan Nazarbayev, who did not join either the socialists or the Kazakhstan People's Congress after leaving the CPSU, has consented to become leader of the "Kazakhstan People's Unity" union.

The union's organizational group emerged after the president's address to the people last fall, in which he

made the traditional call for unity and accord. The group has achieved much in recent months: Delegates from all Kazakhstan's oblasts and from Alma-Ata came to the founding conference. In this way a republic political organization supporting reforms and President Nazarbayev has been born.

The creation of a broad stratum of property owners and the formation of a middle class are extremely consonant with the president's idea of creating a social market economy. And since stability in interethnic relations are its hobbyhorse, N. Nazarbayev's consent to become the leader of a political organization which, according to numerous signs, was actually created "under the president," has surprised no one.

Addressing the conference, Nazarbayev recalled the friendship of peoples, called for a rejection of the blasphemous identification of the Soviet empire with the Russian people, advised that the word "progress" should be added to the union's name and that a socioeconomic fund be set up under the organization, and gave his consent to become leader.

The drafters of the union's rules have endeavored to ensure that the provision on the organization's leader should in no way place the president in an awkward position—after all, under the Constitution he cannot engage in any other activity apart from the presidency; but, with truly oriental flexibility, it has been written into the rules that the union's leader is not one of its officers and performs no functions in this organization—he is simply nominated as official candidate for the post of president of the rrepublic or, as in our case, already is president.

President Persuades Council To Revise Privatization Plan

OW1502183093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1731 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Nursultan Nazarbayev has persuaded the National Council for Economic Transition (NCET) of the necessity to revise the draft of privatization program for 1993-1995 developed by the government. The conceptual principles of the document presented by the Cabinet of Ministers to the head of state on February 3 for confirmation had already been approved by the members of the NCET. (Resolutions of this body created by Nazarbayev's decree in January are obligatory for all organs of executive power - INTERFAX).

According to INTERFAX, the President considers it necessary to clarify provisions in the government program draft aimed at the development of a mechanism to denationalize large enterprises and include citizens living outside Kazakhstan in the process of privatizing sites situated on Kazakh territory. It was decided to speed up the preparation of the list of enterprises strategically important for republic's national economy which are not destined for privatization or can be privatized only with the consent of the government.

Mentioning the problem of privatization in his TV address on Sunday [14 February], first Vice Premier Davlet Simbayev advocated "an open" solution of issues related to the sale of any particular minor sites so that the state would not lose control over the process of privatization. Simbayev is convinced that it is inadmissible to preserve the situation under which the State Property committee and the buyer together determine the cost of the site and decide on the sale.

Prime Minister Pleased With Results of Trip to Bulgaria

LD1202190093 Alma-Ata KAZTAG in Russian 1130 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Excerpt] [no dateline as received] [passage omitted] In an interview with a KAZTAG correspondent, Kazakhstan Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko summed up the results of his visit to Bulgaria. He expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the trip, the aim of which was to discuss future treaties and agreements between Kazakhstan and Bulgaria. The disruption of the previously existing trade links is felt in both countries, and the need to restore them is obvious. Naturally, however, this should happen with account being taken of present conditions and on a basis of mutual benefit. The Kazakhstan prime minister noted that the changes taking place in the two countries are facilitating the development of cooperation and are opening up new prospects for it. "We saw a constructive and committed approach to tackling these issues on the part of the Bulgarian leadership," he said.

On 11 February the republic's government delegation, headed by Sergey Tereshchenko, returned to Alma-Ata after its visits to Hungary and Bulgaria.

Ministerial Heads Meet With Visiting Japanese Delegation

LD1202174193 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] Today heads of the Ministries of Economy, Foreign Economic Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Transport, and Agriculture, and of the State Committee for Water Resources met with members of a Japanese Government delegation staying in Alma-Ata. There was a detailed discussion of problems facing various sectors of the republic's national economy in the period of transfer to market relations. First and foremost they dealt with foreign assistance and the most acceptable system of providing it to Kazakhstan.

A proposal was made for the transfer of technology or the supply of lifting equipment for the Druzhba station,

which would make possible a considerable increase in the throughput of the future trans-continental railroad link, Europe-Pacific Ocean, in whose efficient use Japan also has an interest, and also the construction in the capital of Kazakhstan of works for capital overhaul of passenger carriages, and an enterprise for the overhaul of locomotives at Kazalinsk station. A request was expressed for 200 buses to be provided to Alma-Ata free of charge.

On the same day the Japanese Government left for Bishkek.

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Urges Coalition Government, Economic Growth

LD1602211393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1807 GMT 16 Feb 93

[By KYRGYZKABAR correspondent Albert Bogdanov]

[Text] Bishkek February 16 TASS—"A confrontation between the government and the parliament is a waste of time. Russia is a good example," Kyrgyzstan's President Askar Akayev said on Tuesday [16 February].

Speaking at a meeting with the leaders of democratic parties and movements in Bishkek, Akayev said the republic will survive only if "we sharply boost our economy. To do so, we will have to use the toughest methods to restore order and introduce a new style of management."

"We have to finalise the constitution as soon as possible and to establish on a multi-party basis a coalition government which will be able to provide proper living conditions for the people of Kyrgyzstan," the president said.

Akayev Calls For Offensive on Crime, Corruption

OW1402154993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1324 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Kyrgyz government will do everything it can to provide legal, material and technical support for the law-enforcement bodies' effort to combat corruption, and economic and organized crime, President Akayev told leaders of law-enforcement bodies on Saturday.

"The attack on corruption will be resolute because corruption has paralyzed state authority, slowing down reform and complicating control over the situation, said the president.

He also urged to begin purges in the law-enforcement bodies. Speaking about their inefficiency, he said that the leaders of the Interior Ministry, of the National Security Committee and of the Procurator-General's Office do not exercise control over their agency's everyday work and that they have lost touch with the people, all of which "has undermined the population's trust in the law".

The law-enforcement bodies must launch a serious offensive on crime. This, said Akayev, is the guarantee that aid will come from the International Monetary Fund and other international financial organizations.

Vice-President Feliks Kulov said that in 1992 the crime rate went up by 41 per cent compared to 1991. A total of 44,000 crimes were committed. Only 26 per cent of them were cleared up.

Envoys Raise Security Question

LD1302195493 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 13 Feb 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] President Akayev met workers of law enforcement bodies today for a number of reasons. Crime is growing at a crazy rate. Foreign ambassadors have also appealed to Akayev: They will be forced to raise the question with their governments of practicability of work at embassies in Bishkek if their security is not guaranteed.

According to Uzbekistan's and Tajikistan's special services, underground terrorist groups operating in southern areas of Kyrgyzstan are involved in preparing an inter-ethnic war. Vice President Feliks Kulov highlighted the necessity of interacting with Russian power structures, especially since it is Russia which provides all technical means to the Ministry of Interior, the Committee for National Security, and the Army. One of the proposals is to create an investigation agency similar to the FBI.

The vice president described the scale of corruption as wild. Of all entrepreneurs, only 15 percent answer negatively to whether they had to give bribes. The Ministry of Interior department responsible for working against economic crimes was named as the most corrupt structure. But here is a paradox: the department's management were sitting in the same conference hall and listening to the appeals to step up their work.

President Briefs Ambassadors to CIS Countries

LD1602115293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1134 GMT 16 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Mainayev]

[Text] Bishkek February 16 TASS—President Askar Akayev of Kyrgyzstan today met his ambassadors to CIS countries. This is the first meeting of this kind. Instructing Kyrgyz diplomats appointed to other CIS countries, Akayev said that their main task was to strengthen political, economic and cultural relations with members of the Commonwealth.

"Our present history is linked with the CIS," Akayev said. "An ideal version of the Commonwealth should ensure freedom to everybody, should guarantee the movement of capital, goods and services, and should envisage a border without customs offices."

The Kyrgyz foreign minister advanced, on behalf of the Diplomatic Corps, several suggestions on ways to promote the observance of treaties and agreements among CIS countries, as well as a proposal to set up consular services and issue entry visas to people from countries that are not members of the CIS, wishing to come to the republic.

Today, Kyrgyzstan is trying to contribute to the integration of the CIS through its diplomats, since this was not always possible to achieve at summit meetings. Kyrgyzstan has already six ambassadors and plenipotentiary representatives in CIS countries.

Diplomats Have 'Major Role'

OW1602204293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1733 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "The republic's present-day needs, especially at this transitional period, are closely associated with the Commonwealth, and Kyrgyzstan is willing to promote its further integration with them," President Askar Akayev said at a meeting with the republic's ambassadors in the CIS countries on Tuesday. (Kyrgyzstan is the only former Soviet republic with diplomatic representatives in all the CIS countries - INTERFAX).

The president believes that, posted in the Commonwealth countries, Kyrgyz diplomats may have a major role to play in maintaining the republic's economic potential in contrast to the ambassadors who are accredited in foreign countries.

"The republic will remain inseparable from CIS countries for many more years to come," he said, suggesting that "today's profile of the Commonwealth of Independent States is bound to change to warrant even better cooperation among its constituent republics." He regards CIS citizens' freedom of travel, freedom of merchandize and capitals transfer without customs duties and other obstructions as the most ideal variant of the Commonwealth association.

In the opinion of President Akayev, on top of positive results produced by the recent summits in Bishkek and Minsk, they certainly "resembled sessions of consultative commissions." This, in President Akayev's words, underscores the importance for the ambassadors to more actively project their image in the CIS countries. He believes that "in the period when Kyrgyzstan is establishing itself as an independent state, its ambassadors' activities should not only be confined to political and diplomatic issues, but they should also be highly efficient as far as the implementation of the countries' bilateral agreements is concerned." Askar Akayev designated as priorities in the diplomats' activities in the near future the fulfillment of the republic's needs in "vitally important resources." He also expressed interest in receiving timely updates on socio-political development in the other CIS republics. This information is very important, he said for "avoiding the same mistakes and accumulating the experience our republic would need to go through the transition period."

Tajikistan

Russian Command Concerned With 'Disquieting Situation'

LD1702130393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1232 GMT 17 Feb 93

[By KHOVAR news agency correspondent for ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe February 17 TASS—"The command of the group of Russian border troops in Tajikistan expresses concern over the disquieting situation that has taken shape along the entire Tajik- Afghan border," a spokesman at the press centre of border troops told KHOVAR on Wednesday [17 February].

"Not only frequent trespassing of the state border of Tajikistan by armed groups from the territory of Afghanistan but also firing on border patrols when they perform their duties have been observed of late," the spokesman said.

However, some armed groups from the northern provinces of Afghanistan do not limit themselves to those provocative actions that destabilise the situation on the two countries' border.

In January this year, populated areas in Tajikistan's Panj, Kumsangir and Ishkashim border districts were rocketed from the territory of Afghanistan.

Such provocative actions do not cease now either. Several days ago three rockets were fired on Panj district, with one of them exploding on the territory of a border-guarding detachment and another one bursting in a house.

In this connection the command of the group of Russian border troops in Tajikistan has stated that if Tajik territory is fired upon again by armed groups from the territory of Afghanistan, the border guards reserve the right to take adequate actions.

A spokesman for the command said the northern provinces of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, specifically one of them—Kunduz—which borders on the southern areas of Tajikistan, is under the control of armed mujahideen groups under the direction of a field commander named

Abdullatif who is a supporter of the Hezb-e Eslami (Islamic Party of Afghanistan) headed by Golboddin Hekmatyar.

According to refugees—citizens of Tajikistan—who return home from Afghanistan, mujahideen groups comprise a large number of Tajik militants from among anti-government groups that have found refuge in that neighbouring country.

Government Forces Capture Opposition-Controlled Village

OW1702163193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1433 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Tajikistan's government forces have captured the opposition-controlled village of Tavildara, 300 kilometers east of Dushanbe. This news was confirmed on Wednesday [17 February] by Chairman of Tajikistan's National Security Committee, Saydamir Zukhurov.

Zukhurov also said that government troops were ready to resume talks with the opposition on the surrender of weapons by the illegal armed formations and on ending resistance. If the opposition refuses to resume talks, government forces will continue the operation, he said.

Observers believe that the government forces' next move would be to block the road linking Komsomolabad and Garm in order to split the opposition grouping still controlling this region.

Unidentified Officer's Body Found Near Dushanbe

OW1602222993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1930 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Near Rokhaty settlement, a Dushanbe suburb, a patrol of Tajik government troops found the body of a Russian officer, probably from an air defense unit deployed nearby. This was reported at a conference with commanding officer of the 201st Russian division Mukhriddin Ashurov on February 16. An investigation started.

In the same area opposition fighters took three servicemen of the air defense unit hostage last December. Later maimed bodies of the servicemen were found in Kofarnikhon district not far from Dushanbe.

Officer Identified

OW1702120993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1141 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] An officer whose body was found on Tuesday [16 February] by a Tajik armed forces patrol in the village of Rokhati, near Dushanbe, has been identified as Yaroslav Mostan, 32, a Ukrainian major of a Russian air defense unit.

Mostan's body was found in the same place where three Russian soldiers from an air defense unit were taken hostage. Their bodies were subsequently found in the Kofarnikhon region, not far from Dushanbe.

Experts have established that Major Mostan died from seven knife wounds and was badly beaten before being killed. There is a theory that this was a criminal, rather than political, murder, since there is a brick factory in Rokhati which employs mainly convicts. A videocassette recorder and personal effects were stolen from a house near which the major's body was found.

The prosecutor's offices of both the republic and the military are conducting investigations.

Border Guards Kill 3 'Intruders' From Afghanistan

LD1402114393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0927 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Dushanbe, 14 Feb.—The operational situation on the Tajik-Afghan border remains extremely difficult. An ITAR-TASS correspondent has been informed at the press center of the Russian border guards in Tajikistan that an armed group of up to 30 men tried to force their way across toward Shurabad from Afghanistan yesterday evening. Despite being under strength, the border guards took on the intruders. As a result, three of the intruders were killed and the remainder retreated into Afghanistan. One Russian serviceman was seriously injured. However, thanks to speedy and skilled assistance from local medical personnel, his life is now out of danger.

The press center of the Russian border guards in Tajikistan noted that the Russian Federation border troop command is extremely concerned at the constant armed provocations on the Tajik-Afghan border and the increasing number of attempts by armed Tajik guerrillas and Afghan mojahedin, who have dug in on the opposite bank, to force their way across the border. Border patrols and outposts are increasingly coming under fire from Afghanistan.

At the same time, in spite of the Minsk accords, the CIS peace-keeping forces, numbering four battalions, which were supposed to reinforce the Tajik-Afghan border, have still not arrived in the appointed place.

Security Organs Reluctant To 'Flush Out' Gunmen

PM1202150993 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 10 Feb 93

[By Alisher Khodzhayev, from Tashkent; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Khodzhayev] Opposition gunmen have dug in some 50 km outside Dushanbe, in the Ramit gorge on the (?Yuz) River. According to various reports, between 300 and 500 armed men are concentrated here, 100 of whom are Afghan citizens. The National Security Committee has irrefutable evidence to this effect, although it is true that the embassy of the Islamic State of Afghanistan is refusing to admit this fact.

Military operations have been suspended for a week now. Talks are under way. The opposition has not accepted the terms offered, and is refusing to lay down its arms. The gunmen's leaders and former convicts who have joined these detachments are aware that they will be held answerable for what they have done, and are detaining the others in the mountains by force and intimidation. According to a statement by the law enforcement organs, they have enough men, equipment, and weapons to flush out the gunmen from the Ramit gorge within a very short time. However, they are desisting because of humanitarian considerations. Up there in the mountains, amid the snow and the winds, there are people, compatriots, most of whom have been drawn into the fratricidal war by deception and false promises.

Rakhmonov Calls on Citizens To Unite Around Government

OW1602211993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1736 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Republican leaders are striving to secure the support of various segments of the Tajik public before the threat of a spring attack by the opposition from the territory of neighboring Afghanistan. This is the conclusion at which local observers arrived, when commenting on the recent series of meetings between Chairman of Parliament Imamali Rakhmonov and other leaders with the public.

On Monday [15 February] the republic marked Remembrance Day for the victims of civil war. At the demonstration in Yavansky county of the Khatlonskaya oblast, Rakhmonov called on inhabitants of this and other districts in the country "to unite around the constitutional branches of power" to aid in the strengthening of processes for economic and political stabilization. Chairman of the National Front of Tajikistan, Sangak Safarov, and members of the Tajik cabinet made similar appeals at this meeting.

A demonstration in support of the course of the current leadership was also held at the Gusar settlement in the Pendzhekentsky region of the Khotlonskaya oblast. Participants were satisfied by the government's work to overcome the aftermath of the civilian uprising. In speeches, the oft-repeated theme was of strengthening the unity and friendship of peoples living in Tajikistan.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: This problem, in the opinion of Rakhmonov and Prime Minister Abdumalik Abdullodzhanov, is one of the most critical due to the continuing exodus of Russian-speaking citizens. According to information from the Tajik embassy in Moscow, over the past two years about 150,000 Russians have left the republic. One of the employees at the Tajik diplomatic mission thinks that the government must immediately grant non-Tajik inhabitants of Tajikistan firm guarantees of property and other rights. According to experts, forced emigration has caused "a colossal breach" in Tajikistan's technical potential, "which will take many years to overcome." Among possible steps the government could take, specialists include the reconsideration of various legislative documents passed before 1990, in particular the "Law on language," which enhanced the monopoly status of the Tajik language. Experts recommend that this issue be handled according to the "Kazakh method," by giving the Russian and Uzbek languages the status of the means of inter-ethnic relations.

Republican leaders are counting on the support of World War II veterans living here to solve problems of national policy. On Monday at a meeting with activists from the republican council of veterans, Rakhmonov promised that the government would work on issues concerning their social welfare. The speaker promised that veterans would not feel "excluded from social life." "Your councils," he emphasized, "are needed by the republican leaders in today's activities," the Tajik leader added.

"We think of ending the fratricidal war and thus support the inter-ethnic position and efforts of the current legal government of Tajikistan," Pavel Khanzhin, a member of the presidium of the republican council of veterans, stated in his turn.

Rakhmonov: Strengthening Afghan Border 'Top Priority'

OW1602222793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1930 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Imamali Rakhmonov, Chairman of Tajikistan's Parliament has said in an INTERFAX interview on Tuesday [16 February] that strengthening the Tajik-Afghan border was the "top priority" of the Tajik Government. In his words, within the first ten days of March a decision will most probably be made on moving four more battalions to the border area. Besides, he said, recruitment to TajikiG?n's own border guard forces would be complete by February 20.

The head of the Tajik Parliament said that the Cabinet was taking urgent steps to step up the food supplies,

notably to remote areas. Now the country has stores of flour which will keep the country going for two months, he said.

Council of Ministers Chairman Arrives in India

LD1402154193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1511 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Bulantsev]

[Text] Delhi, 14 Feb—Abdumalik Abdullodzhanov, chairman of the Council of Ministers of Tajikistan, arrived in India on an official visit today. At the Indira Gandhi International Airport, the eminent Tajik guest was met at the aircraft steps by Dinesh Singh, the Indian minister of external affairs. The official ceremony of the meeting, which will be attended by the supreme Indian leadership, will take place in the presidential palace on the morning of 15 February.

The same day will see the opening of Indian-Tajik talks at summit level, as a result of which, it was learned here, nine bilateral documents are expected to be signed, including a declaration on the principles of cooperation. Other agreements will outline the directions for business partnership between the two friendly countries in the economy, culture, science, and technology and the development of international tourism.

Agreement Signed on Cooperation

LD1502150293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1414 GMT 15 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Karmalito]

[Text] New Delhi February 15 TASS—The reaffirmation of a mutual aspiration to develop fruitful relations was the main outcome of the Indo-Tajikistan talks which were held here today within the framework of an official visit to India by Abdumalik Abdullodzhanov, chairman of the Council of Ministers of Tajikistan.

The principles of interrelations between the two states are laid in the declaration of principles and directions of cooperation on which India's Prime Minister P.V. Narsimha Rao and the head of the Tajikistan Government put their signatures.

A protocol, embracing bilateral cooperation in the spheres of economy, trade, culture, art, education, science and technology, mass media, sports and interaction between Tajikistan's Bank for Foreign Trade and the State Bank of India were also signed.

Nearly 150,000 Russians Leave in Last Two Years

OW1502212893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1917 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Nearly 150,000 Russians have abandoned Tajikistan in the last two years. INTERFAX has learned this on Monday [15 February] from Feliks Dovzhenok, counsellor for international affairs of the RF [Russian Federation] Embassy in Dushanbe. In the opinion of Mr Dovzhenok, the incumbent Tajik government would only succeed in preventing the exodus of the Russian-speaking population from the republic if it speeded up the adopted of a law insuring their rights and social guarantees.

Mr Dovzhenok noted that the compelled migration has created a "colossal hiatus" in Tajikistan's potentials in qualified personnel and "it will take many years to restore it." Apart from the socio-political instability in the republic, the other reason for the exodus of Russian nationals from Tajikistan lies in the "near-sighted policy pursued by the republic's preceding government". The other factor which further "escalated the developments", he said, was the law on Tajik language as the republic state tongue which was adopted in 1990. In the words of Mr Dovzhenok, this law certainly needs serious amendments. "It would be more advisable to follow the example of Kazakhstan and accord to the Russian and Uzbek languages the status of a means of international communication," he said.

'Marauders' Claiming Membership in Popular Front Detained

OW1602183493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1422 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Tajikistan's law-enforcement bodies have detained 20 marauders, who operated under the cover of "membership" in the pro-government Popular Front, led by Sangak Safarov. Chairman of the Tajik parliament Emomaly Rakhmanov told Interfax that the trial of these criminals is likely to be broadcast on TV. This is expected to show the people that the Popular Front provides no shelter to criminals, he said.

Lately, some of the media have been accusing the pro-government Popular Front of assassinating political opponents and pillaging their apartments. Government sources have always denied such accusations. They also claimed that the rights of all citizens, including representatives of the opposition, who have ended the armed struggle against the government, must be defended.

UN Mission Opens, Investigates Human Rights Violations

LD1602104293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0926 GMT 16 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Dushanbe February 16 TASS—"Unfortunately, we have learned about individual violations of human rights in Tajikistan. Some people were shot on the spot

without trial or warrant," head of the U.N. Mission in Tajikistan Liviu Botha told the republican parliamentary newspaper "SADOI MARDUM" (VOICE OF THE PEOPLE). The U.N. Mission was opened in Tajikistan on decision of the U.N. Security Council and on the personal instruction of U.N. Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali.

"It goes without saying that we are disturbed by such facts and hope that an end will be put to them," he contineud. "The programme of national reconciliation should by no means infringe upon the rights of people due to their political, religious or ethnic affiliations. Human rights, envisaged in the human rights declaration, must be observed on the entire territory of the republic. But this does not mean that the Tajik Government has no right to combat thieves, gangsters and other offenders," he stated.

Botha noted that his mission was receiving numerous letters and telegrams from the republic's population. "I have even talked to some of these people," he noted. "However, I must say that the solution of their problems is beyond our competence."

The head of the mission stressed that its functions did not envision any interference in Tajikistan's domestic affairs. "I am sure," he noted, "that the people of the republic will surmount their difficulties themselves."

Touching on the U.N. Mission's tasks in Tajikistan, Botha said that its priority duty was to monitor the military-political situation in the country. "We shall follow the evolution of the stands of different parties, movements and groups, involved in the armed conflict, he said.

"The term of the mission's stay in Tajikistan also testifies to the complexity of its task," Botha summed up. At the present time, this term amounts to three years, but this is not the limit.

Muslim Conference Elects New 'Mufti'

LD1202144593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1412 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Text] Dushanbe February 12 TASS—The first conference of Tajik Moslems elected a new head of republican Moslems this Friday [12 February]. Imam-Khatib Fatkhullo Sharifov of the Gissar district chief mosque was elected mufti. This is how head of moslems in the republic will be called now.

The mufti said in his first speech that "religion will not interfere with state affairs and go in for politics". "The muftiate supports the new government whose actions are aimed at the earliest stabilisation in society and establishemnt of peace on Tajik soil."

The mufti also stressed that Moslems will have, in future too, close contacts with representatives of other religions. The Qadi, Haji Akbar Turajonzoda, was head of Moslems several months ago. He was an "opposition" sympathiser. However, he fled after the lawful government came into office.

Uzbekistan

Jordanian Delegation Arrives for Official Visit

Prince To Meet With Karimov

OW1502114393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1049 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Jordanian state delegation headed by Prince Ra'd Bin-Zyad which is currently in Uzbekistan "would like to lay down the main principles of bilateral cooperation and establish diplomatic relations." The statement was made to journalists by Prince Ra'd Bin-Zyad on his arrival in Tashkent.

The prince pointed out that he was hoping that a meeting would take place between himself and President Islam Karimov Monday [15 February]. The two would discuss relations between their republics and the international scene in general.

Cooperation Agreements Signed

JN1502201293 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Excerpts] The Jordanian delegation led by His Highness Prince Ra'd Bin-Zayd, the chief chamberlain, ended its talks with Uzbek officials after it handed a royal letter to His Excellency Uzbek President Islam Karimov. It also signed an agreement establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries and another agreement on cooperation in the higher education field. The members of the delegation also held meetings with their Uzbek counterparts and discussed with them areas of cooperation. Details are in the following dispatch by our correspondent Khalil al-Qaryuti:

[Begin al-Qaryuti recording] The program of the Jordanian delegation in the city of Tashkent was full of activity and achievements. The delegation arrived in Tashkent, capital of the Republic of Uzbekistan, last night. His Highness Prince Ra'd Bin- Zayd, the chief chamberlain, conveyed a royal letter from His Majesty King Husayn to His Excellency Uzbek President Islam Karimov containing his majesty's invitation to his excellency to visit Jordan, as well as his majesty's congratulations to this excellency on independence.

His excellency the Uzbek president on one hand and His Highness Prince Ra'd Bin-Zayd and the members of his delegation on the other exchanged conversations on a number of issues of mutual interest to both countries. For his part, His Excellency Uzbek President Islam Karimov thanked His Majesty King Husayn for his royal

letter, expressing his pleasure to accept the royal invitation. He asked the delegation to convey his greetings to His Majesty King Husayn.

His excellency then praised His Majesty King Husayn's policy toward resolving international issues and disputes, referring to His Majesty's efforts on the Middle East peace process, especially the Palestine question. His excellency also praised Jordan's achievements under His Majesty King Husayn, pointing out that Almighty God blessed and promoted these achievements because His Majesty is the grandson of the messenger, God's prayers and peace be upon him.

His excellency also stressed that his government would exert every effort to promote Jordanian-Uzbek relations and to maintain what was agreed upon by the two sides, voicing his desire to bosIter relations between the two countries. He said that the Jordanian experience would be very useful for his country.

His Highness Prince Ra'd Bin-Zayd thanked his excellency the Uzbek president, explaining that the visit came as a result of His Majesty King Husayn's desire to offer Jordan's experiences in the field of free market economy. His highness then referred to Jordan's achievements in various economic areas and said that Jordan is always seeking to promote its relations on the basis of mutual respect among states and nations. [passage omitted]

The delegation held meetings with several Uzbek officials. 'Ali al-Suhaymat, [Jordanian] deputy prime minister and minister of transport; and Fatikh Teshabayev, Uzbek [first deputy] minister of foreign affairs; today signed a protocol establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries. Dr. Muhammad 'Adnan al-Bakhit, president of the University of Mu'tah, and Dr. (Ni'matallah Ibrahimov) [not further identified], signed a memorandum of understanding between the governmental the Uzbek University of Tashkent for Oriental Studies and the University of Mu'tah with the aim of promoting cooperation in the higher education area, raising the level of scientific studies, exchanging expertise in the field of scientific researches, and teaching Arabic and Uzbek languages.

During the delegation's meeting with Uzbek [First Deputy] Foreign Minister Fatikh Teshabayev, the two sides stressed the need to deal with issues and disputes on the basis of UN resolutions and to solve them through peaceful means. They also stressed the need to apply UN Resolutions 242 and 338, to get Israel to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories, and to recognize the Palestinian people's right to establish their state on their national soil. The two sides also referred to the need to solve issues through one standard.

The delegation also met with (Rustam Bikov), first deputy minister for foreign economic relations today. They exchanged conversations on areas of possible cooperation between the two countries, as well as ways of promoting cooperation in the fields of economy, trade, transportation, and other various areas. The delegation then met with the head of an Uzbek religious body. The two sides discussed ways of promoting skills in the field of Islamic research and exchanging expertise in the area of preaching and guidance. Talks also centered on the Al al-Bayt University. The Uzbek side voiced strong desire to obtain details about the Al al-Bayt University and the possibility of sending Uzbek students to study in it. The delegation will tomorrow leave Tashkent, capital of the Republic of Uzbekistan, for the city of Ashkhabad, capital of the Republic of Turkmenistan. [end recording]

Japanese Delegation To Discuss Economic Cooperation

OW1502162993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1436 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Hidiaki Ueda, deputy general manager of the Japanese MFA [Ministry of Foreign Affairs] Economic Cooperation Department, who is heading a Japanese government delegation currently visiting in Tashkent, told INTERFAX that his delegation members are expected to address with their Uzbek counterparts the issues of economic cooperation and terms of allocation of Japanese credits to this Central Asian republic.

On Monday, the Japanese delegation has had several brief discussions with Uzbek MFA officials and representatives of the Uzbek State Committee for Geology.

The Japanese delegation handed over to the Uzbek Red Cross and Red Crescent Society the humanitarian aid provided by the Japanese Red Cross. 2288 kilograms of medicines and milk powder will be distributed among the republic's orphanages and children's hospitals.

Mr Ueda observed that this aid was only a small share of the humanitarian cargoes Japan is going to supply to Uzbekistan this year.

Following the meeting with Uzbek President Islam Karimov, which is due to take place Monday night, the delegation will leave for Ashgabat (Turkmenistan).

Foreign Minister Urges Open Relations With Other States

LD1502153593 Tashkent UZBEKISTAN APN in Russian 1210 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Text] Tashkent, 13 Feb [date as received]—Uzbekistan's new foreign minister, 38-year-old Sadyk Safayev, has briefed his staff, telling them that the key directions are regional Central Asian cooperation, active

integration into the Asian world, and cooperation with CIS countries, primarily Russia.

The trump card in Uzbekistan's foreign policy may come to be internal stability and predictable development, he stressed. The minister said that informing the world about the situation in the country is one of his foremost tasks. Maximum openness to the world community on the part of Uzbekistan, access to information from all over the planet, and providing the world with information about Uzbekistan enable us to develop according to civilized standards of international life. We have the chance to establish mutually advantageous relations with nearly all states of the world. So far, we have no enemies and we would do well to make the most of this situation, the head of Uzbekistan's foreign policy department said.

Armenia

President Issues Decree Appointing New Government

NC1602181993 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1700 GMT 16 Feb 93

["Decree by Armenian president on the appointment of the members of the Armenian Government"—read by announcer]

[Text] I hereby appoint the following as members of the Government of the Republic of Armenia:

Vigen Ivani Chitechyan as deputy prime minister—deputy head of the government
Gagik Mkrtichi Shahbazyan as state minister
Sepuh Vardani Tashdzhyan as state minister
Ashot Dolyayi Yesayan as minister of labor and social justice
Ara (Sayani) Babloyan as minister of health
Tigran Eduardi Grigoryan as trade minister
Vahe Vardani Stepanyan as minister of justice
Ashot Andraniki Safaryan as minister of industry
Vahan Hakobi Papazyan as foreign minister
Vardges Tsolaki Gnuni as minister of higher education and science
Karine Sureni Danielyan as minister of natural and environmental protection
Ashot Yerdzhaniki Voskanyan as minister of agriculture
Armen Beniamini Yegiazaryan as minister of economy
Melts Avetisi Hakopyan as minister of energy and fuel
Rudolf Aleksandri Teymurazyan as minister of light industry
Hayk Gegami Kazaryan as minister of education
Grigor Ashoti Pogpatyan as minister of communications
Hakob Movsesi Hakobyan as minister of culture
Vanik Smbati Siradegyan as interior minister
Vahan Mheri Melkonyan as minister of natural resources
Gagik Hmayaki Martirosyan as minister of construction
Vazgen Mikayeli Manukyan as acting minister of defense
Davit Mnatskani Zateyan as minister of foodstuff and procurements
Henrik Dzhmshuti Kochinyan as minister of transportation
Levon Vladimiri Barkhudaryan as minister of finance
Eduard Grigori Simonyants as head of the State Directorate for the National Security of the Republic of Armenia
Stepan Sargisi Badalyan as head of the State Directorate for Emergency Situations
Lazer Yeremi Sargisyan as head of the State Directorate on Underground Resources
Leonard Georgi Petrosyan as head of the State Directorate for Special Projects
Romeo Sureni Chulhakyan as head of the State Directorate for Architecture and City Planning
Levon Misaki Davityan as head of the State Directorate for Statistics, Registry, and Analysis
Vladimir Mihrani Movsesyan as head of the State Directorate for Refugee Affairs
Suren Mushegi Sahakyan as head of the State Administration on Taxation

[signed] Levon Ter-Petrosyan, president of the Armenian Republic
[dated] 16 February 1993, Yerevan

Panel Chairman Calls For Limits on Presidential Power

PM1602134793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Feb 93 p 1

[Report by Sergey Bablumyan: "Proposal To Curtail Armenian President's Rights"]

[Text] Yerevan—The Armenian parliament is preparing to adopt a law balancing the rights of the executive, legislative, and presidential powers.

According to Kim Balayan, chairman of the republic Supreme Soviet Standing Commission on Legal Questions, the post of president was instituted illegally in Armenia in the first place, since the matter was decided not by a qualified vote, but by a simple majority. But in order to avoid destabilizing the political situation in the republic, K. Balayan deems it inadvisable to aggravate this issue and believes that the wisest thing to do is to limit the additional powers that have been given to the president.

Government Forces Continue Offensive in Karabakh

OW1702120893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1142 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Armenian formations are continuing the offensive in Karabakh's Mardakert region which was launched at the beginning of February. By the morning of February 17, they had reached the Sarsangskoye water reservoir, the headquarters of Karabakh's self-defense forces informed Interfax.

Despite the Armenians' successful offensive during which they seized from 7 to 10 villages (estimates vary), Azerbaijani formations control about half of Karabakh's Askeran region.

According to reports from Stepanakert, on Wednesday [17 February] morning Armenian forces occupied the village of Khramort and took control of the entire Askeran region.

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry keeps alleging that the Armenian offensive in the north of Karabakh involves servicemen from Russian units located in Armenia, as well as Russian combat aviation and Cossack detachments. Leader of the this ministry's Information and

Analytical Center, Leila Yunusova, told Interfax, however, that so far Azerbaijan has not collected enough documents to send Russia an official note of protest.

Stepanakert has denied Baku's reports about the involvement of Russian servicemen in combat operations.

Advance to Sarsang Reservoir

NC1602193093 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1700 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] Having consolidated the positions they had previously occupied in Mardakertskiy Rayon, the Nagorno-Karabakh self-defense detachments started organizing a counterattack toward Sarsang reservoir from their positions in Drmbon on 16 February. The main road leading to Mardakert is under their control. For the time being there is no detailed information on the combat operations.

The (?calm) prevailing on the Azerbaijani-Armenian border during the day yesterday was broken late last night. The Armenian Defense Ministry press service informed ARMENPRES that the enemy opened fire on Krasnoselsk and Verin-Champarak in Krasnoselskiy Rayon. The Armenian fighters launched counteroperations, which stopped the shelling. According to preliminary reports, there were no casualties.

Armenian positions in Tavushskiy Rayon and in some other regions came under brief shelling overnight.

A relative calm is prevailing on Armenia's border regions as of 1730 on 16 February.

Purpose of Dudayev's Yerevan Visit Questioned

PM1502143793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Feb 93 First Edition p 7

[Karen Topchyan report: "Peacemaker-General's Lightning Visit"]

[Text] Yerevan—Late last week a bolt from the blue hit Yerevan. A political bolt. Dzhokhar Dudayev paid a four-hour visit to the Armenian capital. According to a spokesman for our country's leadership, the Chechen president's visit came as a surprise to them. And hardly a pleasant one, we might add.

Ruben Shugaryan, the Armenian president's press secretary, said that "during the afternoon of 4 February the Chechen leader telephoned us from his personal aircraft and said that he would be arriving in Yerevan in 20 minutes. In our country Mr. Dudayev had conversations with acting prime minister Grant Bagratyan and certain other members of the Cabinet of Ministers." Mass media representatives were unable to learn any other details from officials. When asked whether the general met with President Levon Ter-Petrosyan, Shugaryan replied in the negative. He also did not confirm the rumors of Armenian-Chechen talks on the question of settling the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Meanwhile people close to Dudayev said in Yerevan that their boss's visit is due to his desire to play an effective mediatory role in resolving the Armenia-Azerbaijan confrontation. These statements are close to the truth since Dudayev arrived in the Armenian capital from Baku, where he met with Azerbaijan's leaders.

Independent observers in Yerevan think it very likely that Turkey, with which Chechnya has fairly friendly relations, gave the "go-ahead" for Dudayev to mediate. However, the effectiveness of the Chechen leader's mission is more than dubious. He himself has enough outstanding issues to tackle.

Presumably, the main thing that brought Dudayev to Yerevan was his stubborn desire to appear as the president of an independent state in the eyes of the world community: He has recently visited Lithuania, Azerbaijan, and now Armenia. As for his visit to Yerevan, plenty of questions arise in this connection: In what capacity was Dudayev received in Armenia—as the leader of an independent country or as a private individual who can at any time of the day or night cross another state's airspace in his personal aircraft, notifying that state's leadership only as he is landing? If Dudayev only met with the acting head of the Cabinet of Ministers, was it worth his flying from Baku to Yerevan so ostentatiously merely to settle economic issues with Armenia?

Azerbaijan

APF, Parties Urge Elchibey To Dismiss Officials

NC1602210593 Baku TURAN in Azeri 1134 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] Baku, 16 Feb (TURAN)—Various Azerbaijani parties and social organizations continued their general meeting today. The participants in this gathering, which was called into session at the initiative of the Azerbaijan People's Front [APF], discussed and approved the content of their appeal to the president of Azerbaijan.

The draft of this appeal carries a demand for serious changes in the structure of the Defense Ministry, the dismissal of some persons close to Elchibey from their posts, and consolidating work in foreign policy.

The participants in the meeting will finalize the draft at 1500 today and convey it to President Elchibey.

Representatives of 24 parties and organizations are taking part in the meeting. No representatives of the National Independence Party, New Azerbaijan Party, and True Path Party attended the meeting.

Ministry: Russia Sending Troops From Germany to Armenia

LD1602202193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1711 GMT 16 Feb 93

[By AZERTAC correspondent Elmira Aliyeva for TASS]

[Text] Baku February 16 TASS—The Russian Government has decided to deploy two motor rifle divisions withdrawn from Germany in Armenia at a request from Yerevan, AZERTAC was told by an official in the Defence Ministry of Azerbaijan who cited confidential sources.

Azerbaijan Defence Ministry experts expressed bewilderment concerning the neighbouring republics desire to host this major contingent of troops in conditions of its profound economic crisis and warned that the fulfillment of these plans can dangerously tip the balance of forces in the region.

Deputy Minister Discusses Possible Economic Collapse

OW1702090493 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Russian 1500 GMT 11 Feb 93

[From the "Telefaks" newscast]

[Text] Fikret Yusifov, first deputy finance minister of Azerbaijan said: The activity of Azerbaijani enterprises is on the brink of a stoppage due to the cessation of all non-cash interactions between banks of the former Union. He blamed the situation on Mafia structures, certain circles in the republic's government, and the leadership of enterprises which fail to fulfill state deliveries to Russia, which resulted in the freezing of Azerbaijan's account.

According to the deputy minister, official representatives of the republic's leadership have been trying to reach an agreement with the Russian Federation on the unfreezing of Azerbaijani accounts in Russian banks for more than a month now, but to no avail. In spite of a recent telephone conversation between Abulfaz Elchibey and Boris Yeltsin, during which Boris Yeltsin assured our president that this question would be solved in the near future, no positive shifts took place.

Yusifov thinks that the collapse of the Azerbaijani economy is unavoidable if the republics' highest leaders do not achieve an agreement on the renewal of non-cash payments in commercial transactions between Russia and Azerbaijan. What is more, it is precisely Azerbaijan that is interested in conducting direct talks, due to the republic's economic dependency on the Russian Federation. It is well known that today the republic urgently needs foreign currency, so as to buy provisions, new technologies, medicine, and much else.

Aliyev's Baku Trip, Growing International Prestige Viewed

MK1602130993 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Feb 93 p 3

[Aydyn Mekhtiyev report: "Geydar Aliyev Meets With Abulfaz Elchibey. Many People Want To Make Friends With the Nakhichevan Leader"]

[Text] At the end of last week an event took place in Azerbaijan's internal political life which will undoubtedly have a stabilizing effect on the situation in the republic. For the first time since his election to the post of chairman of the Supreme Assembly [Medzhlis] of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic of Azerbaijan (in September 1991), Geydar Aliyev visited Baku and had prolonged talks with republic officials. In particular, Geydar Aliyev's conversation with President Abulfaz Elchibey lasted about four hours. It took place behind closed doors, and from the brief report from the president's press service it is hard to tell to what extent Azerbaijan's two leading political figures managed to reach a consensus on the problems that exist. According to the official version, various aspects of domestic and foreign political life were discussed. However, local commentators particularly highlight two points. First, Geydar Aliyev's visit to Baku coincided with an acute military-political crisis that has broken out in Azerbaijan: The open disregard by General Surat Guseynov, commander of the Azerbaijani Army corps in Agdar, for Elchibey's orders as commander in chief of the country's Armed Forces, provided the People's Front with grounds for accusing the Defense Ministry leadership of plotting against the president. And in this situation the call from the Nakhichevan leader to the Azerbaijani people to "rally still more closely around President Elchibey, who was elected by all the people," was assessed as nothing less than a goodwill gesture and a call for the consolidation of all political forces. Second, immediately after the talks with Aliyev the president of Azerbaijan stated: "I believe that such meetings with the chairman of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic Supreme Assembly should henceforth be held regularly, because as a result we can pursue a coordinated policy."

Thus both Aliyev and Elchibey, forgetting old grievances, have moved to meet one another. It seems likely that today Elchibey, whose prestige, on the eve of general parliamentary elections, has been shaken slightly following a series of major defeats for the Azerbaijani Army in Karabakh, felt the need for support from an influential political leader like Aliyev. Despite the People's Front propaganda in the period of the spring presidential campaign (the Front accused Aliyev of links with the KGB and Moscow), the Nakhichevan leader's popularity did not sink below Elchibey's during that period, and today, according to numerous public opinion polls, Geydar Aliyev is the most popular political figure in Azerbaijan, while the number of supporters of the "New Azerbaijan" party, which he heads, has reached nearly 100,000. Furthermore, judging by recent events, the Nakhichevan leader's international prestige has also increased markedly. This applies primarily to the attitudes of the leaders of neighboring Muslim countries toward him. In particular, Turkish Prime Minister Demirel agreed to give the Nakhichevan government credit of $100 million, while Iranian leader Hashemi-Rafsanjani, while showing marked restraint toward President Elchibey, who is an old hand at anti-Iranian rhetoric, is seeking close cooperation with Nakhichevan.

In other words, Geydar Aliyev's balanced policy toward Iran and Turkey has enabled him to establish fairly warm relations with both these influential regional powers. Moreover, the new U.S. Administration, while emphasizing the continuation of the former "hard-line" policy toward Baku, has agreed to grant Geydar Aliyev significant economic aid. Aliyev's letter to Bill Clinton requesting aid had its due effect on Washington: During a recent visit to Nakhichevan Richard Miles, U.S. ambassador to Azerbaijan, conveyed to Aliyev a personal message from Clinton setting forth the U.S. President's intention to cooperate with the Nakhichevan leadership. According to the TURAN agency report, Aliyev stated: "By its decision to grant aid, the U.S. Administration has recognized de facto the blockade of Nakhichevan by Armenia and partially rescinded the U.S. Congress decision on refusing to grant aid to Azerbaijan."

Iranian Parliamentarians Visit Nakhichevan

NC1602215893 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] Several parliamentarians from the Iranian Majles are on a visit to the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic [NAR]. Rafik Gasanov, deputy chairman of the NAR Supreme Assembly, has received the guests. He briefed them on the work of the Supreme Assembly.

The Iranian parliamentarians have become acquainted with the problems in the NAR, which is under a blockade. They have said that they will brief the Iranian Majles on the situation. The guests held talks with residents and visited historic monuments.

President Receives Iranian Foundation President

LD1702103193 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1900 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] Azerbaijan President Abulfaz Elchibey today received Mohsen Rafiq-Dust, president of the Foundation of the Oppressed and Disabled of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Assessing the businesslike visit to Azerbaijan of the leader of this influential organization of Iran as an auspicious step for strengthening cooperation between our countries, the president said that our independent republic is in need of such [words indistinct] relations. He pointed out that the Azerbaijani side will do whatever is necessary for the further expansion and strengthening of cooperation with this foundation.

Mohsen Rafiq-Dust pointed out that the foundation which he heads will give all assistance to the Republic of Azerbaijan which has embarked on the path of independence, to strengthen [word indistinct] and to achieve its appropriate position among the states of the world.

Present at the reception were Asker Mamedov, deputy prime minister of the republic, and 'Ali Akbar Nehavandian, the Iranian ambassador to Azerbaijan.

Western Aid 'Open Support' for Armenian 'Aggression'

NC1502204493 Ankara TURKISH DAILY NEWS in English 10 Feb 93 pp 1, 11

[Text] Ankara—Azerbaijan said Tuesday [9 February] that Western aid to Yerevan signified open support for Armenian aggression following intense Armenian offensives in the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh over the weekend.

"The reason behind the invigorated Armenian military mechanism is the use of foreign humanitarian aid for the purpose of intensified attacks," a written statement issued by the Azerbaijani Embassy in Ankara said Tuesday.

"The Army of a country which claims to be in an economic crisis cannot engage in such powerful attacks," the statement added.

Armenian troops gained control over eight Azeri settlements after an intense military offensive in the Agdere [Mardakertskiy] region of northern Nagorno-Karabakh Saturday [6 February].

The attacks came soon after Turkey consented in principle to help Armenia by allowing Western aid to reach the country through its territory.

This latest offensive has put Ankara in an awkward position with Baku and may even force Turkey to back down on its decision to allow aid to Armenia. Azerbaijan has been critical of Ankara for its decision to allow access to Western aid for Armenia.

Baku has imposed a unilateral embargo on Armenia and Azeri officials argue this has been having the desired effect, as evidenced by the economic crisis that the energy-starved country is suffering from.

In an interview with ANATOLIA news agency, Azerbaijan Ambassador Mamed Mavruz Ogly Aliyev said they were relying on Turkey's help to put an end to Western aid for Armenia. He said, "If they can keep an army of 30,000 in Azerbaijan, if they can occupy 13 percent of our territory they have everything they need. Why are they being helped?"

The statement by the Azerbaijani Embassy added that the attacks on Azeri settlements would destroy efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Karabakh dispute and jeopardize a Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) meeting to be attended by Azerbaijan, Armenia, Turkey, Russia, and the U.S. scheduled for Feb. 22.

Baku stressed that the fact that the attacks coincided with preparations for the CSCE meeting was a clear indication that Yerevan did not want a peaceful settlement of the dispute. According to reports by ANATOLIA, observers in Baku believe that by launching the latest offensive Armenia is trying to strengthen their position at the negotiating table.

ANATOLIA said that while Armenian sources say that they still have the eight Azeri settlements in their control, Azerbaijani Defense and Interior Ministry officials claimed to have regained control of these. However, the Azerbaijani Embassy's statement acknowledges indirectly that the settlements are still in Armenian hands.

Shevardnadze Pays Tribute to Elchibey on 'Historic Day'

AU1202094993 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 5 Feb 93 p 1

[Speech delivered by Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian Parliament and head of state, at a dinner given by Abulfaz Elchibey, president of the Republic of Azerbaijan, in honor of the Georgian Government delegation, in Baku; date not given: "The Freedom and Independence of the Caucasian Peoples Are in our Hands!"]

[Text] Batoni [Georgian polite form of address] President, dear hosts!

As there is a television camera in front of you, I would also like to address all the citizens and inhabitants of Azerbaijan, greet everyone, and sincerely thank you for your extremely kind hospitality, marvelous reception, and that desire to cooperate that you have manifested and that has brought us such great results.

In this century, the Caucasian states—Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Armenia—have acquired their freedom for the second time. At the beginning of the century, we lost the freedom we had won through the influence of those forces about which you have just been speaking, Batoni President. We must draw the appropriate conclusion from this lesson. Today, the world is different; there is a different world order. However, no matter how many friends we may have in the world, nothing can replace the friendship of one's neighbors. The freedom and independence of the Caucasian peoples are in our hands. From this point of view, I believe that our negotiations today and those most important documents that we have signed are a firm guarantee of our freedom and independence.

Today, the Caucasus is the center of world public attention. In conditions of the empire, many probably did not know where the Caucasus was. Today, the whole world is concerned about the situation that has taken shape here. I believe that our negotiations today and their results will guarantee that, in the very near future, the world will recognize the Caucasus as that region above which there is a peaceful and cloudless sky. You were right in saying at our meeting today that our relations are based upon great traditions. This is the experience of centuries. I thank everyone for having enabled me to sign this most important document in a new epoch and at a decisive stage in the construction of a new independent Azerbaijan and Georgia. You said, and I agree with you, that this is a historic day in the life of our peoples. I am convinced that future generations will evaluate in the same way the results of our negotiations.

I would like once more to thank you for your warmhearted hospitality and for having made your contribution—a great and important contribution—to the construction of an independent Azerbaijan. I thank you for your generous hospitality. At this extremely significant moment, I would like to wish you personally, Batoni President, your colleagues, all the families in Azerbaijan, and all its citizens happiness, health, a just end to the war, and that Azerbaijan's sky may always be cloudless.

I would like to propose a toast to Batoni President, his colleagues, and all our Azeri friends who have participated in the negotiations and who proved to be splendid and the best partners; I propose a toast to the whole of Azerbaijan.

Alliance With Georgia Seen as 'Stabilizing Factor'

PM1702093793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Feb 93 First Edition p 7

[Arif Useynov report: "The Caucasian Home"]

[Text] Baku—The foundations of a flourishing and vital Caucasian home, in the opinion of Azerbaijan President Abulfaz Elchibey, were laid in Baku as a result of the Georgian-Azerbaijani summit talks. The alliance between Azerbaijan and Georgia in the sphere of the economy, trade, transport, and mutual security is perceived here as a stabilizing factor for the entire Caucasus, because the two states, which are not CIS members, are geopolitical buttresses in this troubled region, according to the opinion expressed in Baku. In addition, the mountain peoples of the North Caucasus may affiliate to this alliance.

The model long cherished by Eduard Shevardnadze, it seems, is acquiring real shape. Elchibey has a similar stance: He has been persistently calling for an end to the bloodshed in the Caucasus. The regional economic independence of the Caucasus is not a pipedream, bearing in mind its strategic importance and material resources, transport communications, and access to the Caspian and Black Seas. Observers regard the rapidly developing Caucasian home as a glaring omission of Russian policy toward the Caucasus—the lack of an integrated and long-term concept.

All 24 documents signed in Baku between Azerbaijan and Georgia are viewed by Abulfaz Elchibey and Eduard Shevardnadze as a basis for the active integration of the two neighboring states' economies, which will have a positive effect on the consolidation of ties with Near East neighbors and West Europe. Attention has been drawn to the Georgian leader's statement at the press conference that, before flying to Baku, he spoke by telephone with Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan, who took a positive view of his trip to Azerbaijan.

Georgia

Shevardnadze on Coup Rumors, Abkhazian Conflict

OW1502150093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1434 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze has said that peaceful means of finding a way out of the crisis in Abkhazia did exist and that these had become more realistic after the UN Security Council's decision to dispatch two missions to Abkhazia. The missions would both analyse the situation there and formulate proposals for a settlement, Shevardnadze said in his weekly radio interview Monday [15 February]. He pointed out that the arrival of the mission did not mean that the Russian factor would be ignored in the settlement process. He added that the dialogue between Georgia and Abkhazia must also not be ruled out in this process.

Shevardnadze said that Georgia possessed the forces and arms to resolve the conflict by military means. "This method, however, would result in many victims on both sides," he said.

The Georgian leader described claims by a number of politicians that a coup d'etat was being prepared in the republic as "gossip by individuals not far away." He also described a telephone conversation with Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosian Monday evening. The latter, he said, had agreed to visit Tbilisi and attend a meeting between the Georgian and Azerbaijani leaders. Shevardnadze also considered the attendance of Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev "and, for that matter, representatives from every other neighbouring nation" essential at the meeting, which is intended to contribute to stability in the region.

Special Forces Capture Abkhazian Saboteurs

OW1602150593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1420 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Georgian special forces on Monday [15 February] captured a group of around 20 Abkhazian saboteurs in the Ochamchir region of Abkhazia, Interfax was informed by the Georgian defense ministry's press center. Four saboteurs were killed during fighting.

Tbilisi has said that two Georgian soldiers had been wounded during artillery fire along the Gumista front near Sukhumi.

Abkhazia's defense ministry in Gudauta has reported tank fire on Abkhazian positions Tuesday. One Georgian tank had been eliminated during retaliatory fire.

Abkhaz Separatists Reinforcing, Concentrating Units

LD1602204693 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1856 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] Commenting on the situation that has emerged in Abkhazia, Tamaz Nadareishvili, chairman of the Council of Ministers of Abkhazia, noted that the armed forces of Abkhaz separatists and their hirelings have been concentrating on the Gumista River for several days now. Reinforcements have arrived—units of the Confederation of Caucasian Peoples, Adygeis, Cherkess, Kabardinians and Chechens, and Russian Cossacks have arrived from the Dniester region. Heavy equipment and artillery is also being brought up. The situation in the Sukhumi and Ochamchira areas of hostilities is extremely complex and tense.

Shevardnadze Stresses Importance of Relations With Turkey

AU1502112993 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 3 Feb 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "A Businesslike Dialogue"]

[Text] **On 1 February, Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian Parliament and head of state, received representatives of Turkey's business circles.**

The conversation concerned the prospects for strengthening relations and cooperation between the two countries. The head of state expressed his satisfaction with their visit and emphasized the desire of the two countries to strengthen and extend mutual cooperation.

It was stated at the meeting that the recently formed Turkish-Georgian Business Council had elaborated a draft for future joint work that highlighted five fundamental spheres of cooperation: the banking system—the creation of a joint bank and the implementation of banking operations; the transport question—the improvement of roads; the creation of a single synchronized energy system; the setting up of communications between the two countries in the near future; and the development of transport.

Batoni [Georgian polite form of address] Eduard Shevardnadze stated: "Turkey's support is important for us today. The political situation in Georgia is very tense. However, I believe that we will definitely cope with the existing difficulties and will establish contacts with foreign countries. Georgia's geopolitical situation is of strategic importance and will enable it to go into partnership with many countries. This process has already begun, and it cannot be halted today.

"We attach very great importance to the formation of a parliamentary assembly of Black Sea countries, which will further promote the development of relations between Georgia and other foreign countries." He pointed out that he had outlined bright prospects for cooperation during his meeting in Iran.

The head of state expressed great anguish as a result of the political situation that had been caused by the conflict in Abkhazia and expressed the hope that the fratricidal war would end soon and that peace would be established in this region.

The guests pointed out that Turkey's Prime Minister Batoni Demirel supported this visit and attached great importance to Turkish-Georgian economic cooperation.

In accordance with the treaty concluded between Turkey and Georgia recently, the work connected with the import of 50,000 tonnes of wheat was in its final stage. The sides finally agreed on the question of the allocation of Turkish credit worth 50 million [currency not specified].

Parliament Sets Up Constitutional Commission

LD1602192593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1629 GMT 16 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi February 16 TASS—The Georgian Parliament has adopted a resolution today on setting up a constitutional commission, and elected Eduard Shevardnadze its chairman. Before that, the people of the republic lived in accordance with the 1921 constitution restored by the State Council of Georgia, and following the parliamentary elections in October 1992—in keeping with the law "On state power" adopted by the parliament. According to Eduard Shevardnadze, the commission will have to amend the 1921 constitution, which is not bad as a matter of fact, taking into consideration the modern realities and changes in the world.

Radicals Call For Restoration of 1921 Constitution

LD1502150493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1415 GMT 15 Feb 93

[By GIA correspondent Irina Dzhorbenadze for TASS]

[Text] Tbilisi February 15 TASS—Radical sentiments have revived in Georgia lately signifying yet another phase of confrontation in the republic.

The Georgian opposition National Liberation Movement has urged Georgian Leader Eduard Shevardnadze to restore the 1921 Constitution and to withdraw Russian troops from Georgia.

Observers believe the invigoration of the opposition is caused by the government's inertness in carrying out economic reforms in the republic and by the weak legislative power which is being enfeebled by the continuing rivalry with the Army.

Iranian Military Delegation Arrives, Meets Kitovani

LD1602174993 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1439 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Excerpt] A nine-man Iranian delegation arrived in Tbilisi today, led by Deputy Defense Minister Akbar Asar Mulat. Later the members of the delegation met Georgia's Defense Minister Tengiz Kitovani for talks on cooperation between the two countries' defense ministries. They also discussed arms production and military industrial development.

After the meeting Tengiz Kitovani said that it had been the first step toward full-scale cooperation between the two countries' defense ministries and a continuation of the friendship for which Eduard Shevardnadze's visit to Iran had laid the foundations. [passage omitted]

Estonia

Opposition Protests Entry of More Russian Soldiers

OW1602122793 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1205 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Speaking on Monday [15 February] with the tribune of Estonian parliament, members of a faction belonging to a rightist coalition once again stated that the prime minister and defense minister did not know of the arrival in Estonia of an additional number of Russian military forces.

According to the deputy chairman of the Isamaa faction, Indrek Kannik, the Defense Ministry had actually issued a permit for the entry of a few dozen Russian soldiers, but then acknowledged its mistake and annulled the permit. Nevertheless, Russian soldiers arrived, and the Estonian border guard did not inform the government of this promptly.

Prime Minister Mart Laar called the opposition's attack on the government "natural," since after the successful confirmation of the state budget the opposition had to find new opportunities to provoke a government crisis.

Laar told journalists that the event testifies to the fact that work at many state departments must be improved.

According to the prime minister, he has yet to receive an account from the Department of Border Guards on where, when and on what basis the Russian soldiers were allowed into Estonia.

"I think that the government will react to everything quietly and continue its daily work," Mart Laar said.

Russian Representative Assembly Adopts Statements

LD1702120493 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1800 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] The first session of the Russian speakers' representative assembly which took place in Tallinn today adopted a statement which demands that the monument on Tonismagi [dedicated to Soviet victory over Germany in World War II] be restored to its original state. As is known, the plaques fitted on the monument were taken down on 13 February.

The representative assembly finds that unless the removal is connected with repairs to the monument it amounts to an act of vandalism. The statement demands that the monument be restored to its original state and that culprits are punished inasmuch as the memory of those who perished in the struggle against against fascism is sacred.

Another statement devoted to the 75th anniversary of the Republic of Estonia [24 February] confirms that the Russian-speaking population will give their best to Estonia's flourishing and happiness.

The assembly's chairman, Nikolay Yugantsev, informed the organization members of links with representatives of foreign countries and Estonian political forces. During the past few weeks members of the assembly's presidium have been meeting ambassadors of Germany, Russia, and France as well as members of the UN human rights mission. A meeting is due with the British ambassador and the Norwegian foreign minister. Today a meeting will take place with representatives of the Riigikogu Center Faction, tomorrow with the Party of Consolidation group, and within the next few days with representatives of the Fatherland Faction.

The session discussed also the setting up of commissions at the assembly. It is planned to set up commissions for culture and religion, legal advice, education, and several other commissions.

Prime Minister on Russian Customs Tariffs

LD1702114793 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1000 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] Estonian Prime Minister Laar believes that higher customs tariffs introduced by Russia will hit enterprises employing mainly Russian-speaking staff. In his view, the aim of the measure is to put economic pressure on Estonia to pursue a policy which suits Russia but, according to Laar, the authors of the scheme miscalculated because they have failed to take into account two factors. These are that a significant part of Estonia's economy has been restructured for cooperation with the West and that the structure of the republic's national economy has undergone some changes.

Coalition Party Ready To Form New Government

OW1402192193 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1800 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Estonian Coalition Party and its allies are ready to form a new government, should the incumbent Cabinet resign. Peeter Lorents, leader of the parliamentary faction, made this announcement at a press conference in Tallinn on Saturday [13 February]. Mr Lorents was elected to this post to replace Riivo Sinijarv when the latter was appointed Estonia's Ambassador in the U.K.

Mr Lorents said the Coalition Party is not pressing for the government's immediate dissolution, while, he said, "the activities by some of the Cabinet members may soon bring this issue to the agenda." He also indicated that the Coalition Party meeting earlier on Saturday adopted a decision that the party congress, slated for March 20, elect Tiit Vahi its chairman, assigning him to draft the party's new program. In the previous government, Mr Vahi was holding the post of the Cabinet head.

Mr Vahi, who was also taking part in the press conference, said that in implementing the economic reform program the government "ought to capitalize on Germany's Lugwig Erchard Program" in the post-war years. In his opinion, Estonia's immediate priorities should be in privatization, decentralization of control and elimination of monopoly.

Mr Vahi spoke against the government's intention to stage new elections to the local administrations bodies in early June. "The elections cannot be staged unless adequate conditions which have been created for them, not until the issue of the property reform has been finalized," he said.

In answering a question by BALTFAX correspondent, Mr Vahi said that the Coalition Party has not worked out its own viewpoint in regards to the voting rights of non-Estonian nationals who are permanently residing on the territory of the Estonian Republic. This issue, he said, will be addressed at the coming congress.

Deputy Says Communists 'Leading Forces' in Parliament

OW1502124893 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1119 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In his interview with newspaper "POSTIMEES" (Postman) deputy chairman of Estonian parliament Tunne Kelam declared that former communists have become one of three leading forces in today's State Assembly of Estonia.

According to Kelam, former communists were the first to understand what posts they should occupy in the state and have key positions in their hands. They have organized "an all-round defense" and nobody can break it. Kelam said that former governments even have not tried to do this.

The deputy speaker believes that the second force in the parliament is represented by populists headed by the "Eesti Kodanik" (Citizen of Estonia) block. They are using the simplest slogans which serve them well in this difficult transition period.

In Kelam's opinion, the most dangerous tendency is the fact that former communists and populists are "actually supporting each other." The ruling coalition which, as the deputy speaker said, "wants real changes" is the third component of the parliament. The aim of the coalition is to combat crime, adopt laws which will allow the people to work honestly and to strengthen Estonia's position in the international arena, the deputy chairman of the State assembly pointed out.

Government 'To Overhaul' Economic Stabilization Fund

OW1602211493 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1936 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Estonian cabinet on Tuesday [16 February] adopted a resolution to overhaul the country's economic stabilization fund, set up last October as a way of providing support to factories, entrepreneurial business and promotion of Estonian exports.

Economics Minister Madis Uurike said the move follows scant donations and the government's failure to provide financial backing to the fund.

Official Pessimistic About Common Baltic Economic Zone

LD1702131393 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1000 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] Estonia has reached the conclusion that setting up a common Baltic free trade and customs zone cannot yet take place. Priit Kolbre, head of the Foreign Ministry's foreign economic policy department, told the BALTIC NEWS SERVICE that instead of preparing for grand trilateral agreements, the course has been set at single agreements—and first and foremost with Estonia's next-door neighbor, Latvia. The economic and political situation in the Baltic states differs so much that drawing up an agreement to satisfy all three is impossible. The idea of a common Baltic economic space was floated about a year or a year and a half ago, when Baltic unity had much greater importance than it does now. Specific preparatory work in trilateral working groups, however, did not prove particularly fruitful.

EC Aid To Be Directed To Help Develop Economy

OW1502211193 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1919 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The 15 Mn [million] ECU [European currency units] which Estonia will receive in free assistance from the European Community will be directed toward developing the republic's economy. Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar announced this Monday [15 February] at a meeting with journalists.

He said the government had developed a program for using the funds granted by the EC. Laar said the development of bank affairs and the finance sector were among priority areas for funding. He stressed that these developments were needed in order to attract foreign investors. After these areas, the prime minister said, funds will also be allotted for conducting privatization, assisting small enterprises and forming new jobs, and preparing and retraining cadres.

Some of the funds will go toward realizing projects to overcome the damage that Russian Army units caused to the environment in Estonia.

Government To Purchase Grain From EC

WS1602142393 Tallinn BNS in English 2147 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Tallinn, Feb 11, BNS—The Estonian government agreed to buy another 50,000 tons of bread grain from the European Community, rendering the state unable to buy the product from its own farmers, chairman of the Agricultural Producers' Central Association Andres Varik told BNS.

Varik said the EC agreement was signed with the inertia of a year ago, when the country was hard put to find enough grain. However, now there is a surplus, and the EC purchase only adds to the state's already bulging bins.

"There are 30,000 tons of rye and 30,000 tons of wheat stored in the granaries of the Estonian agricultural producers," said Varik. "The producers have suggested that the government stop accepting the European Community grain aid."

Varik asserts, "It would be more sensible to leave the grain stored in the Estonian National Granary in national reserve, and continue buying up grain from Estonian farmers. Only such a step would make the farmers feel secure, and incite them to sow this spring."

Latvia

Godmanis To Meet Belarusian, Russian, Ukrainian Premiers

LD1702101993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0919 GMT 17 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Kuchina]

[Text] Riga February 17 TASS—Latvian Prime Minister Ivars Godmanis is going to meet his Belarus, Russian and Ukrainian counterparts within the coming ten days. He will suggest to them the establishment of more favourable trade relations, including the mutual lifting of export and import duties, a representative of the Ravnopravie (Equal Rights) parliamentary group announced on Tuesday [16 February] during a break before the voting on the draft budget.

The Ravnopravie group believes that the planned income is overstated. Besides, the figures do not take into account the consequences of the imposing of new customs tariffs by Russia. Ravnopravie opposed the figures, which in its opinion are unrealistic. Nevertheless, the discussion which lasted a whole day ended with the approval of the draft budget after first reading. Had it been otherwise, the prime minister and, consequently, the Cabinet of Ministers would have resigned, as they promised. The government crisis is over. It is planned to hold two more readings of the document.

Russian Officers Said Involved in Refugee Smuggling

PM1202150493 Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 11 Feb 93 p A6

[Anders Hellberg report: "Refugee Smuggling: Russian Officers Thought To Be Behind the Traffic"]

[Excerpt] Russian officers are behind the smuggling of refugees across the Baltic Sea to Sweden. The refugees are hidden at Russian bases in the Baltic region before they are shipped across the Baltic Sea.

This was the claim made by Latvian Deputy Defense Minister Valdis Pavlovkis and his aides during the visit to Latvia by the Swedish coast guard on Tuesday and Wednesday [9 and 10 February].

"We suspect that Russian officers are involved in this traffic. Nor have we been able to gain access to the Russian bases," Ilmars Leijins, a worker in the Latvian Defense Ministry's foreign relations department, said.

Deputy Defense Minister Pavlovkis told DAGENS NYHETER:

"Also, the hotel here in Riga where we found 40 Kurds a few days ago is owned by a Russian army officer."

According to Leijins, the Latvian authorities are as yet unable to arrest refugees for being in Riga illegally.

"But on 21 March our law on foreigners will be changed so that we will then be able to check on and arrest foreigners who are here without a visa." [passage omitted]

Supreme Council Accepts 1993 Draft Budget

LD1602214293 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1800 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] The budget concept has been accepted, and the Godmanis government will remain. After sharp debates which lasted all today, the Supreme Council's plenary sitting accepted on its first reading the draft of the 1993 budget. The draft budget, compared with the previous version, does not have any essential changes. The predicted revenue is 85.7 billion rubles [R], with expenditure at R88.1 billion. The anticipated budget deficit is R2.3 billion. In fact the main subject of discussion for the past few weeks, and today too, was the revenue section of the budget.

Further Details Provided

WS1702123893 Tallinn BNS in English 1121 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] Riga, Feb 16, BNS—The Latvian parliament on Tuesday [16 February] voted 75-25 with 13 abstentions

to approve a 85.7 billion LVR [Latvian ruble] (USD [U.S. dollar] 520,000) state budget draft for 1993.

Speaking before the vote, Prime Minister Ivars Godmanis threatened to resign if the budget was defeated.

In a concluding speech before the house vote, Godmanis said the government must not spend above its earnings. He said any alternative budget providing for excessive money supply or higher borrowing could result in higher taxation which would affect both the producers and taxpayers.

The decision came after two days of discussion. Parliament is due to consider the proposed budget in its second reading next week.

MPs also accepted the budget deficit to be 2.3 billion LVR (USD 14,000). They agreed to cover the budget deficit with Bank of Latvia credits, as well as a discharge of the state loans to the Ministry of Agriculture, extended earlier to purchase grain.

The majority also supported a move by the agricultural and forestry committee Chairman Janis Kinna to use a part of the resources in the state and municipal privatization funds to cover the budget shortfalls.

Lawmakers rejected a proposal by social and health care committee Chairman Egils Jursevics not to include the social insurance budget in the body of the state budget.

The spendings in the state budget draft will be debated at the second reading of the bill.

Germany's Suessmuth To Visit 17-19 May

LD1502222093 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1801 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Text] Anatoljis Gorbunovs, chairman of the Supreme Council, today received Count von Lambsdorff, ambassador of Germany to Latvia and doyen of the diplomatic corps, at the ambassador's request. The ambassador came to officially announce that in response to an invitation by the Supreme Council chairman, Bundestag President Dr. Rita Suessmuth will pay an official visit to Latvia from 17 to 19 May.

During the talk Anatolijs Gorbunovs noted with satisfaction the recent activities of Germany in Latvia, emphasizing that the opening of the Goethe Institute and the Hansa office in Riga will have appreciable political and practical significance in furthering future bilateral relations.

Former U.S. President Nixon Visits, Meets Leaders

Urges Good Relations With Russia

LD1602113693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1112 GMT 16 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Kuchina]

[Text] Riga February 16 TASS—Visiting former U.S. President Richard Nixon called on Latvian leaders to support the Russian president and understand the Russian concern over the human rights of the Russian-speaking population in Latvia.

Nixon wished Latvia to maintain good relations with its neighbours and help Russian President Boris Yeltsin remain in office as long as possible. "Boris Yeltsin was a friend of Latvia when it struggled for independence and he remains a big friend of it today", he told reporters on Tuesday [16 February].

He expressed hope that all problems in Russian-Latvian relations will be solved and called on the Baltic state to understand that Russia is to take care of 25 million Russians living outside the country.

On Monday Russia introduced double taxation on Latvian goods as the trade agreement between the two countries was not ratified by the Russian Parliament in retaliation to human rights violations of the Russian-speaking community in the Baltic state. The mayor of Moscow followed suit by curbing trade relations with Latvia and Estonia in response to the human rights situation there.

Nixon promised to brief U.S. legislators and the Administration on his trip to Russia and the Baltic state and said the United States needs more information on what is happening in Latvia.

Speaks With Gorbunovs

OW1602123093 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1205 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Monday evening [15 February], Chairman of the Latvian Supreme Council Anatolijs Gorbunovs received former U.S. President Richard Nixon, who is visiting Riga on a two-day trip. Representatives of all Latvian parliamentary factions also participated in the meeting.

Speaking at the reception, Nixon called upon the Latvian Government to seek ways to solve mutual disagreements with Russia which would not cause conflict. He remarked that the Russian leadership has big problems with the opposition, and that the rightist's Baltic argument is one of the stronger ones in the fight with Yeltsin and his team.

In conclusion, Nixon also said that Latvia's fate directly depends on the course of events in Russia.

Four Organizations Register With Justice Ministry

WS1602143693 Riga LETA in English 0936 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Text] Riga, February 15 (LETA)—Four organizations have been registered as parties in the Latvian Ministry of

Justice by February 15, namely, the Movement for National Independence of Latvia, the Union of Latvian Farmers, the National Union "Tevzeme" ("Fatherland") and "Daugavas Vanagi" ("The Daugava Eagles").

Taking into consideration the fact that all the parties and organizations have to complete the registering by May 1, Maris Krumins, head of the Social Affairs Department, envisaged that the number of those willing to register is going to increase.

A party or a social organization which is willing to enter the register is to submit information about its founders, its full name, statement on aims and objectives of its activities, the number of its members, the members of its leadership which are authorised to represent the party or organization. The required information includes also an answer to the question whether the party or organization plans also to enter business activities and to publish its own newsletters.

Government To Create National Security Organization

OW1602124293 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1205 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On February 15, deputy chairman of Latvia's parliament, Andrejs Krastins, told deputies in the Satversme faction of plans to create a Bureau to defend the constitution in the republic, which would be the central organization in the national security system.

Krastins explained that the Bureau's main functions would include intelligence, counter-intelligence, information processing and analysis. The state defense council should govern work at the Bureau on the whole, while the chairman of the Supreme Council manages work directly. A special commission of five to seven deputies should monitor the Bureau's activity.

The Bureau, according to Krastins, will be a civilian organization without any punitive division. A total of 208 specialists should work at the Bureau.

The 300 Mn [million] rubles needed to maintain the Bureau have already been included in the state budget proposal, Krastins said.

Lithuania

President-Elect Brazauskas Puts Forward Policies

Seeks Law on Private Property

OW1202193393 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1734 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Lithuanian Acting President Algirdas Brazauskas has requested that special measures be developed for securing by law the rights and guarantees of inviolability of private property.

In his address to the Cabinet, Mr Brazauskas said, in particular, that it would be desirable to introduce amendments in that regard into the Lithuanian civic and penal codes. In his opinion, the republic's parliament should give first priority to addressing the draft of the "commercial code," then forthwith ratify the conventions and recommendations issued by the International Labor Organization.

The Lithuanian Acting President proposed that all the government decisions and resolutions, restricting the realization of private property rights, particularly in the sphere of economy, be rescinded. He also proposes to set up an Agency for Support and Development of Micro- and Medium Business ventures.

Algirdas Brazauskas has called on the government to devise a mechanism of worthwhile fund allocation to small enterprises through the use of the employment fund and the privatization fund.

Discusses Economic Indicators

LD1302173393 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1500 GMT 13 Feb 93

[Text] Acting President Algirdas Brazauskas discussed privatization and the entire Lithuanian economy at today's news conference. Mr. Brazauskas said nobody was trying to slow the rate of privatization or stop the reforms that have been started. Lithuania must make the best possible use of credits granted by the EC and other countries and organize its affairs in such way that the proposals do not disappear into officials' desks.

According to Algirdas Brazauskas, efforts to stop inflation have been successful. Prices for goods increased by only 9 percent this past January.

One can also find some solace in a report by the Lithuanian Statistical Department, too. According to the department, industrial output this past January, in comparison to the same period last year, declined by 54.8 percent. But in comparison to figures at the end of last year, the rate of decline has slowed somewhat in the main branches of the economy. In January, as compared to last December, Lithuania's industry turned out only 13.5 percent less products. It was noted that the level of refining oil has increased, including by more than three times in January.

Export indicators have improved somewhat. Exports of industrial goods to western countries, as compared to January of last year, increased substantially. Whereas in January 1991 these exports made up 4.2 percent, they now make up 16 percent. Exports to Estonia, Latvia, Georgia, and other CIS countries increased to 41.6 percent. This increase is explained by growing exports of oil products to those countries.

Stresses Improved Ties With Russia

LD1502192293 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 15 Feb 92

[By correspondent Lyudmila Lvova from Vilnius, including recorded remarks by Lithuanian Acting President Algirdas Brazauskas—from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Lvova] The results of the presidential elections in Lithuania were announced at a news conference at the parliament today. Sixty percent of voters voted for Algirdas Brazauskas, while his opponent Stasys Lozoraitis gained 38 percent of votes. At his first meeting with journalists in the post of fourth president of the Lithuanian Republic, Algirdas Brazauskas stated that he intends to be attentive to the interests of every political party and the representatives of all social groups.

Speaking about his relations with neighbours to the east, Brazauskas stressed:

[Brazauskas] I hope that they will improve in the future because the leadership of our republic is stabilising and Lithuania has many interests, particularly in the economic and trade sphere. In the very near future a delegation will be formed for negotiations with Russia. And with other states—Belarus and Ukraine—we will also be trying to sign as many agreements as possible in the very near future.

[Lvova] The president of the Lithuanian Republic believes that, living side by side, we can normalize relations and achieve the necessary mutual understanding.

Suggests Aid for Russian Withdrawal

PM1602115193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Feb 93 p 3

[Valeriy Gromak and Anatoliy Stasovskiy report under the "Events and Commentary" rubric: "Kick Everybody Out, and Let Nobody In—There Are Calls To Conduct Russian Troop Withdrawals Along This Guideline, but Not Everybody Agrees"]

[Text] To this day there is no clarity over what lies in store for the Baltic Fleet Coast Defense 3d Division in the near future.

What exactly is this division doing now?

Guards Division Commander Colonel Aleksandr Pustoutov explained: "In line with previously approved schedules, we are transferring facilities to the Lithuanian side. We are handing over what we consider to be necessary and feasible—things which do not restrict us, but which, on the contrary, weigh us down. We have handed over the photographic workshop in the officer's mess, an incomplete storehouse designed for 64 vehicles, and a number of training center facilities."

One worrying question concerns low personnel levels. There is nobody to perform guard duties—it is already customary for the division to use officers for guard duty, and there are not even enough of these to protect the facilities. In a private conversation, Lithuanian National Defense Minister Audrius Butkevicius reassured the division commander that a certain number of staffers could be supplied from Russia. But again, this question has to be resolved at intergovernmental level...

But Vytautas Landsbergis, leader of Lithuania's opposition, declared only recently that he was surprised by a press report about the introduction of an additional contingent of Russian troops into Lithuania (the issue here concerns the Airborne Troops Division in Kaunas). In his words, this event may signify that the new Lithuanian authorities' position is being put to a practical test: Will they protest against such arbitrariness?

Of course, it is hard to describe as coincidental this heightening of tension just before the Lithuanian Republic presidential elections. At a meeting with journalists, Lithuania's Interim Acting President Algirdas Brazauskas noted on the subject of withdrawing Russian servicemen that their numbers had been exaggerated by the opposition in the Seimas. Brazauskas acknowledged that the Russian troops being withdrawn from Lithuania need physical and technical assistance, and he remarked that it would be worthwhile for Lithuanian servicemen from the brigade of field troops to help in withdrawing hardware. "In that event, no conflict situation would arise, and the actual withdrawal process would not be slowed down," Algirdas Brazauskas stressed.

So it is possible that officials in Lithuania have finally come to realize that what the Russian servicemen need are not spokes in the wheels, but as much assistance as possible.

Outlines Reform Policies

OW1602210693 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1935 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Lithuanian President-elect Algirdas Brazauskas is calling on his country to abandon the politicized reform course when political motives were actively affecting the economy.

In an interview for "IZVESTIYA" on Tuesday [16 February], he observed that all of Lithuania's transformations should be rested on competence, professionalism and common sense "rather than on fallacious political postulates and ambitions." In the words of Algirdas Brazauskas, Lithuanian reforms should be based on consistent privatization, introduction of national currency—Litas, efficient use of credits and loans, freedom of active foreign investments, upgrading of production capabilities and adoption of new know-how. The president emphasized that Lithuania will not deviate from its path to the market economy, "for it

provides reliable social protection mechanisms." President-elect Brazauskas reiterated that he would insist on the withdrawal of the Russian troops stationed on the territory of Lithuania within the laid terms. "The deadline for the troops complete withdrawal has been set," he said. "It's August 31, and since these terms are acceptable for either side, we will only have to keep our own commitments," the president-elect said.

As regards the republic's foreign policy, Algirdas Brazauskas said he would be pursuing balanced eastern and western policy. "This implies," he said, "that we will not give priority to any country, while we regard as highly important our relations with Russia." The president's first steps in this direction, in his words, will be the appointment of Lithuania's new ambassador to Moscow, partial reconsideration of the composition of the Lithuanian state delegation at the talks with Russia, and establishment of good contacts with the Russian government.

"We ought to drive the negotiations process from the stalemate they are in now, and go on with them on a permanent basis," Brazauskas said.

President-elect Brazauskas maintains that Lithuania has provided "all the rights to the Russian nationals residing in it." In his words, Lithuania "will adhere to the international practices in the area of the rights of national minorities," as well as to the Lithuanian own legislation on citizenship. In compliance with its legislation, Lithuania will grant its citizenship to every person who had arrived in the republic before the adoption of the law.

Will Not Change Government 'Team'

OW1702132693 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1218 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Lithuania's newly-elected president Algirdas Brazauskas told the newspaper Respublika on Wednesday [17 February] that he had no plans to change his team.

He noted, however, that he had "reached agreement with some of the acting ministers" and added that he would try to make minimal changes in the government.

His newspaper interview suggests that he would like to reorganize Lithuania's missions in the CIS states, appoint ambassadors to Moscow and Minsk, and shape a delegation for talks with Russia.

Speaking about internal problems, Brazauskas stressed that the implementation of the agricultural reform should be accelerated and the state budget approved. He also said that he would assume the responsibility for combating crime.

Asked about Lithuania's security, he said that Lithuania must get integrated with the system of collective security and clarify its relations with some of NATO bodies. "I'm convinced," he said, "that the foreign army will be withdrawn from Lithuania this year. This is going to slightly change our attitude to NATO and adjust our neutral status." "Lithuania's status must be discussed in the Seimas," he added.

In his interview with the newspaper Lietuvos Rytas he said that the results of the parliamentary elections obliged him to join the presidential race. Asked about the future of his election rival, Lithuania's Ambassador to the US Stasys Lozoraitis, Brazauskas said that he must resume his duties of ambassador.

Speaking about the state officials who supported Lozoraitis during the election campaign, he said that since "these officials do not wish to work in his team, their legitimate wish must be respected."

Hopes for Broad Political Coalition

OW1702133793 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1219 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Algirdas Brazauskas expressed hope that following the presidential elections a broad coalition of political forces will be established in Lithuania.

He did so during the ceremonial meeting marking the 75th anniversary of Lithuania's independence. He also expressed regret that the idea of broad coalition was not duly supported after the parliamentary elections last autumn and the Democratic Labour Party's victory.

As we reported earlier, the idea of national accord was one of the main aspects of the election program of Brazauskas's opponent Stasys Lozoraitis.

Brazauskas also said that Lithuania's state sovereignty should be strengthened, democratic reforms promoted, human rights and freedoms defended, economy restructured, the most essential social guarantees provided and a worthy place found in the system of international political and economic relations.

President-Elect Brazauskas To Take Oath 25 Feb

OW1702133393 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1218 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Newly-elected Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas will apparently take the presidential oath and take office on 25 February. The information was conveyed in a Wednesday [17 February] interview on Lithuanian radio by Provisional Acting Seimas Chairman Ceslovas Jursenas.

Jursenas recalled that on Monday there would be a special session of the Seimas whose main goal, he said,

would be to select perhaps two or three judges to the Constitutional Court, one of which will administer the oath to the new president.

The speaker reported that the parliamentary leadership would remain in place until the president swears the oath. Since the Seimas speaker has become president, however, after the ceremony, the question of who will lead the seimas will still have to be resolved. In addition, on the day following the president's accession, the government will have to establish its responsibilities. The new government, said Jursenas, will be formed no earlier than 10 March. The special Seimas session, which will last from 17 February until 1 March, a law on the government will still have to be passed.

It is very important, said Jursenas, that the parliament quickly pass the state budget for 1993 and consider the question of a motion of no-confidence in State Bank Chairman Vilius Baldisis.

Lubys Press Conference on Economy, Agriculture, Energy

WS1202144493 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1434 GMT 11 Feb 93

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 184]

[Text] 11 February 1993—Speaking at a press-conference, Prime Minister Bronislovas Lubys said that Lithuania did not freeze this winter, there were no major obstructions in train and bus traffic, we had enough food products, though the living standard is far from the Western standard. The Lithuanian Government is still cooperating with the International Monetary Fund and other similar organizations, as well as foreign states. The IMF is ready to grant Lithuania all the credits it had promised, the U.S.A has supplied Lithuania with 25 million dollars for the purchase of corn and other agricultural products. The stock of corn will also be supplemented from reserves of the European Community. In addition to that, the Government will grant money for the purchase of corn from Lithuanian farmers. "I am sure that we will have enough of corn until the coming harvest", B. Lubys said.

The mild winter allowed to use energetic resources economically. There should be no problems of fuel. According to the Premier, the question of energetic resources has been solved. A more complicated matter is Lithuania's accounts for the supply of natural gas.

Speaking about the situation in industry and agriculture, Bronislovas Lubys noted that the realization of production in January was the same as that in December. Though it is too early to speak about the stabilization of the recession of production. One of the most pressing problems is flexible mutual settlements within the country and with Lithuanian partners in the Eastern market. Though some enterprises of the food industry have already restored Lithuania's reputation abroad.

The Prime Minister stressed the fact that it is necessary to tackle the problem of credits and their use. "We should investigate the conditions of credits and not forget our debts." Evaluating the present financial situation, the Prime Minister said that Lithuania was successful in leaving the rouble zone, though the value of the talonas is constantly decreasing. According to him, the litas should be introduced as soon as possible.

The leader of Lithuanian Government said that after the presidential elections he is going to resign.

Landsbergis Criticizes Russian Resolution on Military

OW1202194993 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1735 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The leader of Lithuania's parliamentary opposition, Vytautas Landsbergis, has characterized as "expansionist" the resolution which the Russian Supreme Soviet adopted on January 21. This document designates additional privileges for the Russian military personnel who are currently stationed on the territory of Trans-Caucasia, Tajikistan and the Baltic states. In the opinion of Mr Landsbergis, the Russian parliament decision may serve as a justification for "provocations and interference in the countries' internal affairs." In his statement, which was circulated on Friday [12 February], Vytautas Landsbergis called for staging an inspection of some of the Russian Naval units which have not been pulled out of the Lithuanian territory. In his words, at the end of 1992, the troops withdrawal schedule had only been fulfilled by 78%. The Lithuanian opposition leader particularly insists on inspecting the Russian 287th Coast Guard regiment which is still stationed in Lithuania.

Foreign Minister Criticizes Law

OW1402183193 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1759 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In an interview for over the Lithuanian national TV on February 12, Lithuania's foreign minister Povilas Gylys was highly critical about Russia's new legislation which provides additional guarantees and compensations to the Russian Army servicemen stationed in Trans-Caucasus, Tajikistan and the Baltic states, and the Russian military personnel assigned to uphold Russian citizens' constitutional rights under emergency situations or during armed conflicts.

Povilas Gylys said he was "under the impression that the Russian parliament is trying to impose its legislative acts on the Baltic countries as well." In the interview, which was staged after Russia's Acting Ambassador in Vilnius Counsellor Anatoliy Burlakov received Lithuanian MFA's [Ministry of Foreign Affairs] note of protest, Mr Gylys said that "Article 2 of Russia's new law, in

particular, is authorizing Russia to adjudicate conflict zones on its own, and act accordingly." In the words of the head of the Lithuanian MFA, Russia's new law bears on the rights of Russian citizens, as guaranteed by the Russian Constitution, which "cannot be applied in the Baltic countries." The head of Lithuania's state delegation at the talks with Russia, Ceslovas Stankevicius also joined in criticizing Russia's new law. In an interview for "LIETUVOS AIDAS," he said that the Russian Supreme Soviet has conferred on "the occupational army in the Baltic states the authority to fulfil the tasks which are defined as protection of citizens' constitutional rights under emergency situations." "The adoption of this law constitutes an act of contempt of international jurisdiction and independence of the Baltic states," Ceslovas Stankevicius said.

Landsbergis Criticizes Country's Foreign Policy

OW1202195293 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1735 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The leader of the Lithuanian parliamentary opposition Vytautas Landsbergis believes that the country's foreign policy lacks continuity and that may spell "quite a few losses" for Lithuania.

As he spoke at a news conference in Vilnius on Friday [12 February], he expressed surprise over the intention of the Lithuanian Premier Bronislovas Lubys to have negotiations in Moscow to discuss the status of Russian military plants, to be withdrawn from Lithuania.

Landsbergis said that under the Lithuanian law adopted at the end of 1991 all property of the then USSR, including industrial facilities were Lithuanian property.

"They are Lithuanian industrial plants and any discussion of their status is ruled out," Landsbergis said.

Seimas Begins Session; Prime Minister To Be Confirmed

LD1702102993 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0800 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] On the initiative of 53 members of the Seimas an extraordinary plenary session of the Lithuanian Seimas was convened today, which is scheduled to last until 1 March.

The agenda for the entire session includes: the appointment of judges for the Constitutional Court; the draft law on the government; confirmation of the candidate for the post of the prime minister; confirmation of the government program; the 1993 state budget; discussion of the statement on the vote of no confidence in Vilius Baldisius, director-general of the Bank of Lithuania; and the discussion on the crime situation.

Party Officials Assess Presidential Election Result

LD1602203993 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in Lithuanian 2200 GMT 15 Feb 93

[Excerpts] The opinion of political parties and movements in assessing the results of the presidential elections somewhat differ.

A representative of the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party, Gediminas Kirkilas, maintains that the results of the elections are objective because Algirdas Brazauskas was supported by those electors who, during the Seimas elections, cast their votes for the representatives of the present majority. However, in the opinion of Gediminas Kirkilas, the victory of Algirdas Brazauskas was decided by good work by his election headquarters. [passage omitted] Another reason for the defeat of the competitors, according to Gediminas Kirkilas, was that a candidate that was too weak was selected for the election struggle. [passage omitted]

A Sajudis representative, Laima Andrikiene, assessing the results of the presidential elections, said that she did not expect that the Lithuanian people would elect a representative of the former Communist Party. [passage omitted] According to Laima Andrikiene, people casting their votes have chosen today without thinking about tomorrow.

Member of the Stasys Lozoraitis election headquarters, Liberal Jonas Tamulis said that, bearing in mind that the election campaign lasted only three weeks, votes collected by Stasys Lozoraitis have partly exceeded all expectations. Jonas Tamulis mentioned an extensive activity by people as one feature of the elections. [passage omitted]

In assesing the election results, the chairman of the Social Democratic Party, Aloyzas Sakalas, said that the most important thing is that the elections were democratic. [passage omitted] In the opinion of Aloyzas Sakalas, the fact that Stasys Lozoraitis obtained almost 40 percent of the votes demonstrate great opportunities for that person. [passsage omitted]

According to a representative of the Christian Democratic Union, Kazys Bobelis, one could not expect different results. [passage omitted]

Christian Democratic Union representative Kazys Bobelis thinks that at present all work will be positive. [passage omitted]

Thus the opinions about Lithuania's future differ.